

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 6:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBER  
6650 Beach Boulevard  
Buena Park, CA 90621

CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
**Tuesday, March 4, 2025 - 6:00 PM**

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## **1. GENERAL**

### **1A. Call To Order**

### **1B. Roll Call: Schooner, Singhal, James, Figueroa, Bendinelli**

### **1C. Pledge Of Allegiance**

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## **2. COMMUNICATIONS**

### **2A. Oral Communications**

— This is the portion of the meeting set aside to invite public comments regarding any matter within the jurisdiction of the Climate Action Commission. Public comments are limited to no more than three minutes each. If comments relate to a specific agenda item, those comments will be taken following the staff report for that item and prior to the Commission vote. Those wishing to speak are asked to complete a speaker identification form located at the Council Chamber entrance and place it in the box near the speaker's lectern.

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## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **3A. Approval of Meeting Minutes - February 4, 2025**

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## **4. OLD BUSINESS**

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## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **5A. Sustainability Learning Session: Benefits of Trees**

### **5B. Discuss Public Trees and the Urban Forest Management Plan**

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## **6. CITY/STAFF UPDATES, INFORMATION ITEMS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **6A. City/Staff Updates, Information Items, Future Agenda Items**

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## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

### **7A. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned to the next regular meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

This agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. Supporting documents are available for review and copying at City Hall or at [www.buenapark.com](http://www.buenapark.com). Supplementary materials distributed to the Commission less than 72 hours before the meeting are posted to the City's website at [www.buenapark.com](http://www.buenapark.com) and copies are available for public inspection beginning the next regular business day. This governing body is prohibited from discussing or taking action on any item which is not included in this agenda; however, may ask clarifying questions, ask staff to follow-up, or provide other direction. The order of business as it appears on this agenda may be modified by the governing body.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need accommodations to participate in this meeting, contact Public Works at (714) 562-3655 or the California Relay Service at 711. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make arrangements to assure accessibility.

If you would like to participate in any matter of business on the agenda and would like translation in Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, or Vietnamese, please **contact Public Works at (714) 562-3655 48-hours prior to the meeting**. Residents requiring translation during Oral Communications are encouraged to bring interpreters.

시의회 목록에 있는 정식 안건에 대해 의견을 발표하고 싶으신 경우, 중국어, 한국어, 스페인어, 타갈로에 대한 통역사가 필요하시면 시미팅 48시간전 시서기 오피스로 (714-562-3655) 연락하시면 됩니다. 정식안건이 아닌 주민 발언시간에 발표하실 경우, 본인의 통역사를 직접 모시고 오시면 감사하겠습니다.

Si le gustaría participar en audiencia pública o cualquier asunto de negocios programado en la agenda y necesita traducción en chino, coreano, español, tagalo o vietnamita, comuníquese con la Oficina del Secretario de la Ciudad, 48 horas antes de la reunión al (714) 562-3655. Para participar en los comentarios públicos sobre cualquier otro asunto dentro de la jurisdicción del ayuntamiento, se les recomienda que traiga un intérprete.

I, Elizabeth Genera, City of Buena Park, do hereby certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that a full and correct copy of this agenda was posted pursuant to Government Code Section 54950 et. seq., at Buena Park City Hall, 6650 Beach Blvd., and uploaded to the City of Buena Park website [www.buenapark.com](http://www.buenapark.com).

Elizabeth Genera  
City of Buena Park  
Public Works

*Date Posted: February 27, 2025*





**A. Approval of Meeting Minutes - February 4, 2025**

Meeting	Agenda Group
Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 6:00 PM	APPROVAL OF MINUTES Item: 3A.
Prepared By	
Elizabeth Genera, Senior Administrative Assistant	

**Attachments**

[ca minutes 2-4-25.pdf](#)



## City of Buena Park

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### MINUTES CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION FEBRUARY 4, 2025

#### 1A. CALL TO ORDER

The Climate Action Commission met on February 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 6650 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park, CA.

**1B. ROLL CALL**      PRESENT: Schooner, Singhal, James, Figueroa, Bendinelli  
STAFF: Lotus Thai, Sustainability Manager

#### 1C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 2. COMMUNICATIONS

This is a portion of the meeting set aside to invite public comments regarding any matter within the jurisdiction of the Climate Action Commission. Public comments are limited to no more than 3 minutes for each speaker.

#### 2A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - None

#### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of November 5, 2024

\*\*\*M/S/P – *Singhal/Figueroa* – Approval of meeting minutes November 5, 2024

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

##### 4A. Commission Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Schooner read the City of Buena Park policy regarding appointment of the Climate Action Commission Chair and Vice Chair positions: *To have fair and equitable representation, the chair and vice-chair positions shall rotate between commissioners/committee members in numerical order by districts in January of each calendar year, pursuant to the manner and process established in City Council Policy No. 22 (2023).*

Brandon Schooner (District 5) was appointed as Chair; Annie Singhal (District 3) was appointed as Vice Chair for 2025 calendar year.

##### 4B. Discuss Commission Expectations, 2025 Goals and 2025 Schedule – Presented by Lotus Thai, Sustainability Manager

Lotus Thai updated the Commission on current events. She reported that in the last 6 months, several teams have embraced sustainability by developing and executing green incentives. BP Police Department reached out to EDCO to provide reusable bags for the annual Cops n Goblins event. BP Public Works Facility Maintenance replaced 6 gas water heaters with electric pumps, cutting emissions. Grant funding covered over 90% of the replacement cost. The OC Fire Authority has lowered paper waste (nearly 6,000 sheets annually) by switching to digital files for inspection reports.

The Office of Sustainability alongside the Climate Action Commission (CAC) has spearheaded several projects last year: bee and chicken keeping ordinance, Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, use of electric lawn equipment, and event waste sorting stations throughout City Hall.

Lotus reported that the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan is moving forward, over 700 people from the community have shown interest in climate change. The Office of Sustainability has actively engaged with the community at various events. Additionally, the Sustainability Manager has presented to 6 commissions, educated the CAC with monthly sustainability learning sessions, hosted waste-sorting training and has built relationships with other sustainability professionals.

The South County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) offers a rebate to assist residents with the cost to change to electric lawn equipment, in addition to the City's rebate funding for residents and small business. Unfortunately, the AQMD rebate is oversubscribed, so all of the city's rebate program budget funds for electric lawn equipment replacement will be made available to residents now.

Lotus reported on the *Buena Park Trash cART Contest* sponsored by EDCO. Residents can compete by designing a trash cart with upcycled, repurposed and recycled materials to decorate the trash cart. The contest theme is *Food Waste!* to promote awareness of Senate Bill 1383 and how to reduce food waste from going to landfills.

The City's first Sustainability Fair is on April 19, 2025, from 8am-12pm at Boisseranc Park. The fair is in conjunction with Spring Eggstravaganza. There will be information booths with eco-friendly and recycling agencies and a booth for the commission to promote sustainability. As stewards of sustainability, Commissioners are expected to volunteer at community events, gather CAAP feedback from residents and businesses, recognize and nominate sustainability champions/businesses.

Lotus reported that so far the sustainability learning sessions have covered the topics like what the office of sustainability does, environmental history, the meaning and effects of climate change, behavioral psychology, and the definition of zero waste. Microclimates, water usage/waste, and recycling rules in Buena Park were suggestions for future sessions. Lotus will arrange a commission excursion to visit the EDCO recycling/landfill facility. Chair Schooner suggested a visit to the Long Beach Bee Sanctuary.

What to expect in 2025: January – CAC to host a CAAP virtual town hall meeting. February – use of reusable plates and utensils at City Hall. April/May – release the draft of CAAP. April 19 – Sustainability Fair at Spring Eggstravaganza promote sustainability champion, Trash cART Contest. July – release final copy of CAAP and present it to City Council.

**5. OLD BUSINESS – No items.**

**6. CITY/STAFF UPDATES, INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting is March 4, 2025, at 6 p.m.



**A. Sustainability Learning Session: Benefits of Trees**

Meeting	Agenda Group
Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 6:00 PM	NEW BUSINESS Item: 5A.
Prepared By	Approved By
Lotus Thai, Sustainability Manager	Matt Foulkes, Director of Community Development
Presented By	
Lotus Thai, Sustainability Manager	



March 4, 2025  
NEW BUSINESS  
Item No. 5B.

## City Council Agenda Report

### Discuss Public Trees and the Urban Forest Management Plan

PREPARED BY	PRESENTED BY
Joe Hunt, Public Works Manager	Joe Hunt, Public Works Manager
DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL	CITY MANAGER APPROVAL
Mina Mikhael, Director of Public Works	Aaron France, City Manager

### DISCUSSION

The City maintains an urban forest comprised of publicly-owned trees planted in parkways and medians and at parks and facilities. The urban forest consists of approximately 10,700 trees, a number which has remained fairly consistent over the last several years. The City has earned the designation of Tree City USA from the Arbor Day Foundation six times, most recently in 2023.

Last year, the City Council approved the Buena Park Public Tree Policy with the objective to fully realize the benefits of trees in public spaces. The policy clarifies tree selection, maintenance, and conditions for removal. Although the City makes its best efforts to increase the number of public trees, there are still a significant number of vacant spots on parkways that could potentially support a tree. Reasons for a spot to be vacant may include, but are not limited to: utility conflicts, hardscape conflicts, maintaining line of sight, inadequate irrigation or landscape maintenance, disease, or lack of desire for a tree from the adjacent property owner. Parkway trees are trimmed by the City every few years but watering, cleaning up leaves and droppings, and other routine maintenance is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner.

The Climate Action Commission worked with staff to put together the attached brochure "The Benefits of Trees," which is available at City facilities and on the City's website. When targeting an area for new tree planting, staff will distribute the brochure along with the attached letter informing residents that the City will be planting a tree in their parkway.

Staff recently planted over 48 trees in February while re-landscaping a frontage road median on Valley View Street north of Crescent Avenue. Throughout the year, staff does take opportunities to add trees to tree-deficient areas. On average, the City plants approximately 250 trees annually. The City also hosts an annual Arbor Day celebration during which volunteers help staff beautify a different spot of the City by planting public trees.

Given this item was requested by Council Member Hoque, staff was asked to specifically identify locations in District 4 where trees could potentially be planted. Staff has identified tree-deficient areas in the southern parts of the City and plans to target these areas with tree planting activities in 2025. These areas include the Cerritos Avenue frontage road from Carlotta Avenue to Lorinda Avenue, Marcella Way, Holder Street, Carlotta Avenue, Knott Avenue, and others.

The approved parkway tree list was updated in 2024 and includes:

- Camphor Tree
- Brisbane Box Tree
- Arabian Lilac Tree
- Gold Medallion Tree
- Crape Myrtle
- Evergreen Pear Tree
- Marina Strawberry Tree
- Glossy Privet Tree
- Compact Southern Magnolia Tree
- Chinese Pistache Tree
- Japanese Pagoda Tree
- Purple Orchid Tree
- Silver Maple Tree
- Sweet Bay Laurel Tree
- Blue Palo Verde Tree
- Desert Willow Tree

Following the City Council Meeting on February 11, 2025, staff developed a door hanger to leave at residences that received a newly planted tree in the parkway in front of the home. The door hanger will emphasize the importance of proper care, watering, and maintenance of the tree.

Staff has reached out to Linden Oaks Speech Development Center off of Holder St. About potentially hosting our 2025 Arbor Day Event there and planting trees in the parkway in front of the school with participation from the school and students. Initial discussions have been promising and staff will continue to coordinate that event.

### **Attachments**

[Tree Door Hanger.pdf](#)

[Benefits of Trees brochure.pdf](#)

[Letter - Planting a Parkway Tree.pdf](#)

[Tree Policy Final 2024.pdf](#)





# Parkway Tree Care Guide

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To water, use a hose to slowly fill the bowl around the tree trunk until full.

- ▶ Water three times a week during the summer months.
- ▶ Water once a week during the rest of the year.

Please do not change or adjust the stakes.

Avoid using power lawn equipment near the tree as it can damage the bark and hinder healthy growth.







# Thank You

The City of Buena Park appreciates your partnership in caring for the new parkway tree in front of your home. Your efforts in watering and nurturing this young tree will help it develop strong roots, ensuring it thrives for years to come.

During its first year, the tree will need regular watering to establish deep, healthy roots. Once established, it will become more resilient, providing shade, cleaner air, and beauty to your neighborhood. While it will require less frequent watering over time, occasional deep watering will keep it strong.

Your care today helps create a greener, healthier Buena Park for generations to enjoy. Thank you!

For questions or concerns, please contact Jeffrey Porter, Streets Maintenance Superintendent, at [jporter@buenapark.com](mailto:jporter@buenapark.com) or **714-562-3703**.

## This Tree is a:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camphor Tree           | <input type="checkbox"/> Compact Southern Magnolia Tree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brisbane Box Tree      | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese Pistache Tree          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arabian Lilac Tree     | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese Pagoda Tree           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Medallion Tree    | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple Orchid Tree             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Crape Myrtle     | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Maple Tree              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen Pear Tree    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweet Bay Laurel Tree          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marina Strawberry Tree | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Palo Verde Tree           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glossy Privet Tree     | <input type="checkbox"/> Desert Willow Tree             |





## Why Do We Need Trees?

Trees are vital to the health and well-being of our planet. They provide clean air for us to breathe, homes for wildlife, protection from extreme weather, and so much more. It is crucial for us to recognize the value of trees and take action to protect and preserve them.

By safeguarding forests, planting new trees, and practicing sustainable forestry practices, we can ensure that future generations continue to benefit from the services that trees provide. Promoting awareness about the importance of trees and advocating for their conservation are essential steps in safeguarding the health of our planet and securing a sustainable future for all.

## Did You Know?

One acre of trees removes up to 2.6 tons of carbon dioxide each year.

Trees are the longest living organisms on Earth. The world's oldest trees are 4,600-year-old Bristlecone pines in the USA.

The world's tallest tree is a Coast Redwood in California, measuring more than 360 feet.

There are approximately 73,000 different tree species on Earth.

Arbor Day is a holiday dedicated to planting and caring for trees. Arbor Day received its name from the Latin word "arbor," which means tree.

@cityofbuenapark



# The Benefits of TREES

Climate Action Commission



# Climate Guardians

Trees play a crucial role in improving air quality and fighting climate change by:

**Cleaning the Air:** Trees are like nature's air filters. They soak up pollutants such as smoke and dust, making the air cleaner for us to breathe.

**Making Oxygen:** Through photosynthesis, trees take in carbon dioxide, which is harmful for us and the planet, and turns it into oxygen.

**Cooling Things Down:** Ever noticed how it feels cooler under a tree? That's because trees provide shade and release water through their leaves, which cools the air.

**Stopping Erosion:** Tree roots hold soil in place. This stops the soil from washing away when it rains, protecting us from floods.

**Capturing Water:** Trees soak up water from the ground and release it into the air. Making clouds and rain, which is important for keeping plants and animals alive.

# Benefits for Human Well-being

Trees aren't just good for the air – they're great for making us feel happy and healthy!

**Stress Busters:** Being around trees can make us feel calmer, less stressed, and more connected to the world around us. So, the next time you're feeling a little overwhelmed, take a walk in the woods or sit under a shady tree in the park.

**Noise Pollution Reduction:** Trees act as a buffer against traffic noise.

**Community and Social Benefits:** Trees beautify neighborhoods and enhance the aesthetics of urban environments, creating more inviting and livable spaces. They also serve as gathering places for social interactions, community events, and recreational activities, fostering a sense of belonging and cohesion among residents.

# Benefits for Wildlife



**Homes for Critters:** Trees provide shelter and nesting sites for birds, squirrels, and other animals. They also offer a safe place for insects to live and lay their eggs.

**Food Sources:** Many animals rely on trees for food. Birds eat the fruits and seeds that trees produce, while insects munch on the leaves and bark. Even animals like deer and rabbits nibble on tree leaves and twigs.

**Biodiversity Boost:** Having lots of trees around creates a diverse ecosystem where different species can thrive. This biodiversity is essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems and supporting a wide range of plant and animal life.



# Life Cycle of a Tree

The life cycle of a tree begins with a seed. As the seed begins to sprout and grow roots, it becomes a seedling. Leaves begin to grow from the stem and utilize the sun to photosynthesize and create nutrients for the tree. Once the tree is about three feet tall, it is considered a sapling. The tree will continue to grow and mature until it can create its own seeds.

Sapling



Seedling



Seed





February 12, 2025

Dear Resident,

Buena Park is host to an Urban Forest consisting of over 10,000 public trees planted and maintained by the City. Many of these trees are located on pieces of public property known as the parkway. The parkway is the area between the curb and the sidewalk (if there is no sidewalk it is the area between the curb and the property line). The parkway is owned by the City and maintained by the adjacent property owner, except for City-installed parkway trees which are inspected, trimmed, and maintained by the City.

In an effort to beautify the City and enhance the Urban Forest, the Public Works Department will be planting a tree on the City parkway in front of your home. The City will provide and plant the tree at no cost and perform all required future maintenance. The tree will be selected by City staff from the approved parkway tree list (on the back of this letter) based on the specific conditions of each particular parkway. Consideration includes parkway width, height obstructions, limb and root structure, adjacent vegetation, and general resistance to disease and insects. Prior to planting, utility companies will be marking their service lines to reduce the likelihood of damage or service disruptions.

During the first year of its life, the tree will be working to establish itself and requires regular watering. Please help beautify the neighborhood, enhance property values, and aid the local environment by providing the tree with extra water during this period and regular watering afterwards.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact Jeffrey Porter, Streets Maintenance Superintendent, at [jporter@buenapark.com](mailto:jporter@buenapark.com) or 714-562-3703.

Thank you,

Mina Mikhael, P.E.,  
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Enclosure

## **City of Buena Park Approved Parkway Tree List**

- Camphor Tree
- Brisbane Box Tree
- Arabian Lilac Tree
- Gold Medallion Tree
- White Crape Myrtle
- Evergreen Pear Tree
- Marina Strawberry Tree
- Glossy Privet Tree
- Compact Southern Magnolia Tree
- Chinese Pistache Tree
- Japanese Pagoda Tree
- Purple Orchid Tree
- Silver Maple Tree
- Sweet Bay Laurel Tree
- Blue Palo Verde Tree
- Desert Willow Tree

**Buena Park Public Tree Policy**  
**BPMC Chapter 12.20 (Plants and Trees on Public Property)**  
**BPMC Chapter 15.28 (Abatement of Public Nuisances)**

**Objective**

The objectives of this Tree Maintenance Policy ("Policy") include to: (1) fully realize the benefits of trees in public spaces, which include shade from the sun, minimization of the urban heat effect, abatement of air and noise pollution, reduction of soil erosion and runoff, enhancement of the visual environment, traffic calming, and promotion of community pride; (2) reduce the public hazard, nuisance, and expense incurred by poorly maintained or improperly selected tree; (3) promote efficient and cost-effective management of the City's urban forest; (4) protect the City's investment in a mature and healthy urban forest; and (5) address circumstances where trees located on private property cause damage to public property or constitute a public nuisance.

**Introduction**

This Policy provides guidelines for administering Chapters 12.20 and 15.28 of the Buena Park Municipal Code. It includes standards for planting, maintaining and removing trees located on public property or in the public rights-of-way, and standards to aid private property in responsibly planting, maintaining and removing trees located on private property. This policy is intended to be used as a reference by City Staff, residents, businesses, and private contractors in making tree-related in the City..

**Application**

This policy applies to all trees located on public property or public rights of way, which includes but is not limited to parkways, median islands, and areas located between the curb and sidewalk adjacent to public rights of way ("Public Property"). Additionally, portions of this Policy apply to trees located on private property to the extent those trees damage City property or constitute a public nuisance.

**Tree Maintenance on Public Property**

There are dozens of varieties of street trees in the City of Buena Park and each species requires different care and brings its own unique characteristics to a neighborhood. Immediate trimming may be required on some trees to protect public safety, while other trees are identified for trimming as time and resources allow. There are a number of trees within the City requiring special handling for various reasons such as species, age, or location near buildings or power lines. Utility companies under their franchise agreements have the right to trim City trees when they pose a hazard to their facilities.

The Public Works Department is responsible for trimming trees located on Public Property and each year City funds are budgeted for tree trimming services. Trims related to safety (tree limbs that interfere with safe passage of vehicles or pedestrians) are scheduled

immediately. Other trims are scheduled on a set interval based on species, most commonly in an interval of every four years. Tree limbs are selectively removed to “air out” the tree to encourage good development and preserve their health, structure and natural appearance. The City will not allow its crews or contractors to perform topping, heading back, stubbing, lion tailing, or pollarding.

If a property owner wishes to have a parkway tree trimmed sooner than scheduled by the City, a property owner must first obtain a no-fee permit from the City. The property owner shall be responsible for the tree trimming and for all costs related to it, including cleanup and disposal. A City-approved, licensed, bonded, and insured contractor must do the actual trimming. Work must be done according to City specifications.

### **Tree Planting on Public Property**

The Public Works Department is responsible for all tree plantings on Public Property. In an effort to restock and enhance the City’s urban forest, the Public Works Department will plant trees in areas where trees have been lost due to disease, age, weather, or infrastructure damage. The cooperation of adjacent property owners in caring for newly planted trees will be encouraged as they are especially dependent on irrigation to survive.

To supplement City funded tree replacement activity, the City will endeavor to work with neighborhood and non-profit organizations to obtain additional resources and coordinate neighborhood-planting efforts.

Trees that are planted shall be on the Approved Street Tree List and must be appropriate for the specific planting site. No tree shall be planted closer than 25 feet to another tree unless a staff have determined that a lesser distance will not impact the growth or health of the tree, or closer than 15 feet to any utility pole or light standard, or nearer than 5 feet to any fire hydrant, water meter or gas meter, or closer than 25 feet from the curb radius centers of any street intersection.

No tree shall be planted in a planting strip that is less than 30 inches in width between the sidewalk and curb, except upon the approval of the Director of Public Works. Because a 15-gallon tree will be larger and healthier than a 24 or 36 inch boxed tree five years after planting, the preferred tree size shall be 15 gallon. Generally speaking, a variety of species of trees should be planted on each street, and effort will be made to avoid having one type of tree dominate a street or block.

If a property owner wishes to plant a tree on Public Property, he/she shall obtain a permit from the Public Works Department. The permit provides the means for the City to work with the property owner to ensure appropriate tree selection, appropriate planting location, and adding the locating to the City’s tree inventory for future maintenance. The permit will be issued on a no-fee permit basis. The property owner shall bear all costs and liabilities associated with the planting(s) and ensure that any contractor used is licensed by the City. Property owners shall also be responsible for watering the tree to ensure its healthy growth. **(Municipal Code Section 12.20.030.A).**

Trees planted without a permit that are considered undesirable (not on the Approved Street Tree List) will result in the property owner being required to remove and replace the tree with a tree on the Approved Street Tree List. Failure to comply will result in the removal of the tree by the City, at the property owner's expense. **(Municipal Code Section 12.20.010.A).**

### **Removal of Street Trees on Public Property**

The City recognizes the value and appeal of a viable urban forest and promotes not only the conservation but also the addition to the urban forest canopy in the constantly evolving and complex biological setting that the City landscape provides. The City recognizes that there is no perfect tree for all situations and that site conditions and community preferences, along with biological constraints, are all involved in tree selection and maintenance.

The conservation of City trees, especially those in parkways, is a collaboration between the City and its individual residents. Property owners and/or their tenants are required to care for and properly maintain their parkway trees and report any damaged or suspected diseased trees to the Public Works Department.

The City attempts to correct, by all means available, situations that may call for removal of City trees. However, as trees and neighborhoods mature, removal and replacement may become necessary. In general, the City will only remove or allow removal of a tree on Public Property if it is dead, dying, diseased, uprooted, damaged and in danger of falling, or where tree root-damaged sidewalks and curbing cannot otherwise be safely corrected. The City will not allow removal of a tree solely because of leaf, flower, berry debris, or personal preference. The Director of Public Works or his/her designee is authorized to approve or deny all tree removal requests.

### **Conditions for Removing Trees on Public Property**

The determination of a tree's condition and removal will be made by Public Works Department staff. Removal of a tree at no cost to the adjacent property owner may be considered for the following reasons:

- The tree is dead, dying, critically diseased or damaged beyond reasonable repair.
- The tree is in danger of falling or uprooting.
- There is a recognized danger of falling or dropping limbs, which, combined with other factors such as high winds, make corrective measures non-cost effective.
- The tree is competing for light or space with adjacent trees that are more valuable because of their potential longer life, attractiveness and/or sturdier growth.

- The tree is host to aggressive, life-threatening disease or pests that threaten to spread to other trees.
- The tree is in decline and is estimated to have less than two years of life remaining.
- The tree is damaging vital infrastructure such as a sewer line, water line, gas or electrical conduit or is causing other major structural damage.
- The tree is preventing the immediate repair of a sidewalk, curb, gutter, or an essential utility service.
- The Director of Public Works or his/her designee has made the determination that the removal is required to accommodate a City approved infrastructure improvement.

In the cases where the majority of the trees on a block are designated for removal due to declining tree health, the City will work with property owners on a staged removal plan.

For removals being requested by a property owner due to re-occurring utility damage being caused by the tree, the property owner shall provide proof of such damage, verified with invoiced repair costs by a licensed contractor.

### **Tree/Hardscape Conflicts on Public Property**

The following guidelines have been established for correcting potentially hazardous situations that result from tree roots disturbing nearby hardscape (sidewalks, curbs, etc.): Hardscape damage on Public Property may require a temporary asphalt ramp to be followed by permanent repair of the area as funds become available. All reported offsets/deviations will be patched.

Hardscape damage on Public Property that creates a public safety hazard will be scheduled for repair, as funds are available. The following procedures for the removal of street trees as part of any street or sidewalk reconstruction project shall apply:

1. The tree shall be inspected by Public Works Department staff and a written determination made that the proposed street or sidewalk work cannot be accomplished as planned without permanent damage to the tree resulting in making the tree unstable or causing its demise, or the tree has significantly re-damaged a street or sidewalk repaired within the previous 36 months.
2. City staff shall make a determination that the proposed improvement plans cannot be altered to avoid tree removal (i.e.: sidewalk routed around the tree with an easement granted by the adjoining property owner).

### **Removal of Tree on Public Property to Accommodate Private Construction Projects**



Removal of a street tree at the property owner's expense may be considered if the property owner agrees to all the applicable conditions outlined below. Property owners wishing remove a tree on Public Property must first obtain a no-fee permit from the City.

- The property owner's application for the permit must demonstrate that the existing tree has a direct impact to the design and function of the proposed project.
- The property owner will pay all removal costs, including site cleanup, make any necessary repair of hardscape damage and replace the tree. The tree must be replaced with an approved 15-gallon tree to be planted in an appropriate area of the parkway. The property owner will also pay for the equivalent of one (1) 15-gallon tree (approximate cost: \$75) to be planted elsewhere in the City. All fees collected for tree replacement will be placed in a designated tree fund, used solely for the enhancement of the urban forest program.
- The tree, stump and debris are to be removed by a City-approved, licensed, bonded and insured contractor. If the sidewalk, curb and/or gutter or any infrastructure is damaged by the contractor while removing the tree (final conditions will be inspected by the City), the property owner agrees to have all damages repaired within forty-five (45) days after tree removal. If the property owner fails to make repairs, the property owner will be assessed the full value of the tree based on International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) standards. The property owner will be required to replant a tree if the parkway space is available. If the request is granted the property owner will be required to complete all permits, provide a bond for completion, and secure a City-approved, licensed, bonded and insured contractor.

### **Private Trees Obstructing Public Property**

Any tree, shrub, or plant located on private property infested with disease or insects which, in the opinion of the Director of Public Works, is infectious and may spread such disease or insects to other trees or shrubs in the City, shall constitute a public nuisance. **(Municipal Code Chapter 15.28).**

Any tree, shrub, or plant growing or standing on private property in such a manner that any portion interferes with utility poles, lines, wire, or electroliers lawfully erected or maintained along any public street or sidewalk or restricts the flow of traffic or visibility of such street, sidewalk, or intersection or any such tree which has become diseased or weakened in such a manner as to be dangerous to persons lawfully using the streets or sidewalks shall constitute a public nuisance.

The Director of Public Works shall cause notice to be served upon the property owner directing that the public nuisance be removed or abated within seven (7) days. If the public nuisance is not abated or removed or abated within seven (7) days after notice is served, the Director is granted authority to pursue nuisance abatement or code enforcement remedies.

### **Private Trees and Shrubs Damaging Public Property**

If a private tree, shrub, or other plant material causes damage to public property including sidewalks, curbs, gutters, streets, and alleys, repair of damaged areas is the responsibility of the abutting property owner. The property owner is required to obtain applicable permits from the City prior to making any repairs. If the property owner fails to make proper repairs, the City may pursue nuisance abatement or code enforcement remedies. See Section 12.20.030 of the Municipal Code regarding the obligation of residential property owners to maintain parkways adjacent to their property.

### **City Trees and Shrubs Damaging Private Property**

If private property damage occurs as a direct result of a tree located on Public Property, the private property owner may file a claim for damages with the City. Claim forms for such damages are available from the Public Works Department by calling (714) 562-3655. City Staff will review the claim and respond in the manner prescribed by law.

### **Penalties for Vandalizing or Damaging City Trees**

If a property owner vandalizes or damages a City Tree adjacent to their private property, and the damage is such that it cannot be safely corrected and necessitates removal of the tree, the City may seek recovery from the property owner of all removal costs, including site cleanup, repair of hardscape damage, and replacement of the tree.

## **City of Buena Park Approved Parkway Tree List**

- Camphor Tree
- Brisbane Box Tree
- Arabian Lilac Tree
- Gold Medallion Tree
- White Crape Myrtle
- Evergreen Pear Tree
- Marina Strawberry Tree
- Glossy Privet Tree
- Compact Southern Magnolia Tree
- Chinese Pistache Tree
- Japanese Pagoda Tree
- Purple Orchid Tree
- Silver Maple Tree
- Sweet Bay Laurel Tree
- Blue Palo Verde Tree
- Desert Willow Tree

**\*Updated November 14, 2023**

**City/Staff Updates, Information Items, Future Agenda Items**

Meeting	Agenda Group
Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 6:00 PM	CITY/STAFF UPDATES, INFORMATION ITEMS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS Item: 6A.

- Staff update: transition plan for electric lawn equipment