

Draft

Urban Forestry Strategic Plan

Prepared for:

City of Calabasas

Steven Harris, Director of Community Development

26135 Mureau Road

Calabasas, California 91302

Prepared by:

Kay J. Carlson, I.S.A.

City Arborist

1009 Jeannette Avenue

Thousand Oaks, California 91362

(805) 495-3434

Date:

October 1, 1995

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
MISSION STATEMENT	2
Create and sustain an Urban Forest that enhances the quality of life in the City of Calabasas through community based planning.	2
GOALS	3
Enhance the visual quality of the City.	3
Protect existing tree resources.	3
Abate pollution.	4
Establish a permanent and stable funding source.	4
Develop broad-based community support.	4
OBJECTIVES	5
Program: Visual quality enhancement.	5
Create design guidelines for new plantings.	5
Implement infill planting.	6
Implement replanting program.	6
Maintain trees to the highest maintenance standard.	6
Program: Resource protection.	7
Tree Preservation Ordinance.	7
Create conservation easements.	7
Inventory existing resources.	7
Manage invasive species.	8
Stabilize soils.	8
Program: Pollution abatement.	8
Prevent soil erosion.	9
Improve air quality.	9
Employ passive solar control.	9
Establish windbreaks.	9
Mitigate noise and dust.	9
Program: Urban Forestry funding.	9
Identify grant sources.	10
Create or expand Landscape Maintenance Districts.	10
Utilize public programs.	10

Program: Community support.	10
Create a public participation program.	11
Interact with neighborhoods.	11
Educate at diverse forums.	11
Utilize media opportunities.	11
IMPLEMENTATION	11
Adopt plan mission, goals and objectives.	12
Approve an interim City Tree Ordinance.	12
Create detailed implementation plan and time schedule.	12
SUMMARY	12
APPENDIX A - INTERIM CITY TREE ORDINANCE	13

*City of Calabasas***Draft
Urban Forestry Strategic Plan****INTRODUCTION**

The Urban Forest of the City of Calabasas is diverse in nature. Tree sites range from small, square planting pits to natural open spaces, with every type of condition in between. Age diversity ranges from newly planted trees along streets and in parks, to historic native oaks that are hundreds of years old. Species diversity is rather limited. Most neighborhoods were planted with one or two species when they were developed under the County of Los Angeles, primarily Modesto Ash (*Fraxinus velutina* var. *glabra* 'Modesto') and Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*).

When the City of Calabasas was incorporated in 1992, one of the first actions of the new City Council was to adopt a permanent Oak Tree Ordinance. The City recognized that prior development resulted in the removal of a great number of native oak trees. It was concluded that further uncontrolled and indiscriminate destruction of the oak trees would detrimentally affect the ecosystem and aesthetics of the community. The Ordinance sets forth the policy of the City to define a specific entity for the management and enforcement responsibility of the Ordinance, and requires the reforestation, registration and preservation of all healthy oak trees, unless reasonable and conforming use of the property justifies the removal, transplanting, altering and/or encroachment into the protected zone of an oak tree.

Native oak trees and their habitats are an important component of the Urban Forest. Non-native trees planted along streets, in parks and other public areas comprise an equally important component of the Urban Forest. This planted portion of the forest has received little attention by comparison. The purpose of this Draft Strategic Urban Forestry Plan is to establish a foundation for the community to develop an Urban Forestry Master Plan for the City of Calabasas.

MISSION STATEMENT

Create and sustain an Urban Forest that enhances the quality of life in the City of Calabasas through community based planning.

The Mission Statement presents the focus and methodology of the Draft Urban Forestry Strategic Plan. Over the last few years, the citizens of Calabasas have expressed their desire for an active Urban Forestry program in many ways. Specific thoughts and desires have surfaced in many forums and in personal discussions with individual residents. The stated mission, though simple in language, encompasses many ideas that are further developed through the goals suggested in this plan.

Create implies the fact that the state of the Urban Forest is not all it could be. The City has a strong Oak Tree Ordinance. However, the Planning Commission and City Council often struggle for resolution of fair mitigation programs, especially for the individual home owner. These struggles demonstrate a need for fine tuning of the Oak Tree Protection and Preservation Guidelines to insure that the Ordinance serves the ultimate goal of oak preservation.

An Urban Forestry Master Plan is needed to define a planting program for each portion of the City. As trees have been removed, either no trees have been planted in their place or the replacement trees have had no relationship to the identity of the neighborhood. New developments throughout the City need to have planting guidelines set to lead the rejuvenation and expansion of the Urban Forest.

Sustain implies recognition of the fact that active management of the Urban Forest is paramount to its success. Sustainability concerns abound throughout the cities of our country, in all facets of community planning. Sustainability studies and conferences are the focus of many universities and professional organizations as well. Planning for sustainability includes ecological, social and economic components.

The design and management of sustainable Urban Forest ecosystems are thought to have four core components. These four components are species selection and diversity, inventory and landscape planning, tree care and wood utilization, and public relations and support. Each of these components must be considered in the Urban Forestry Strategic Plan to insure success.

Enhances the quality of life reflects the fact that Calabasas is home to many people. Though specific reasons vary, many people chose to make Calabasas their home due to the rural beauty and natural diversity found within the area. Trees add to the quality of life which, in turn, increases property values as much as 15%.

The desire to maintain these qualities encourages many citizens to become active within the many community-based planning committees. In fact, participation on such committees usually serves as an enhancement in its own right. Such participation allows an individual to truly impact the quality of life within the City. The Urban Forestry Strategic Plan recognizes that community-

based planning will be crucial to the successful implementation of the Urban Forestry program.

GOALS

The goals of the Draft Urban Forestry Strategic Plan are intended to be broad statements. They are not intended to be specific, realistic, time-dated, nor even necessarily attainable. These broad statements represent the results of what should be achieved by the Urban Forestry Program. Each goal will be supplemented with a set of objectives.

Enhance the visual quality of the City.

The rural beauty within and surrounding the City of Calabasas is a great source of pride to its citizens. It is one of the most often stated reasons for choosing to live within the City limits. The desire to enhance the visual quality of specific portions of the City resulted in two studies, still in progress. The Mulholland Highway Master Plan focuses on the commercial, residential and rural portions of Mulholland Highway. Likewise, the recently commissioned Las Virgenes Corridor Study focuses on Las Virgenes Road issues.

Trees can form the basis for the character of a street, park, neighborhood, or even a whole City. In the case of flowering or deciduous trees, they can signify the changing of the seasons and symbolize the passing of time. Thematic plantings create a sense of place and neighborhood identity. Barely a City Council or Planning Commission meeting goes by without some discussion on preservation of native oaks or planting of trees in public and private areas.

This goal recognizes that the visual quality of the Urban Forest will degrade if it is implemented in a haphazard manner. Careful thought must go into the choice of tree species and their planting locations. Provision must be made for decision making and continual care with respect to the Urban Forest. A performance standard is required for each aspect of the design, installation and ongoing care.

Protect existing tree resources.

The sustainability of the Urban Forest begins with an understanding of existing resources. These existing resources take several forms. The City includes both private and public lands. Open space, landscape maintenance districts, commercial/industrial areas, parks and streets may be operated by separate entities or Departments, but should all be managed under a comprehensive plan.

Native oak trees exist within developed and undeveloped areas. The Oak Tree Ordinance, passed in 1992, establishes standards for the protection and preservation of any tree of the oak (*Quercus*) genus. The supplementary Oak Tree Protection and Preservation Guidelines contribute the performance standards and requirements. Implementation of the Ordinance and the Guidelines over the last three years has indicated a need for refinement of

these items. Consideration may be given to expanding the Ordinance to address other native trees and valuable habitat.

Street trees exist along most streets throughout the City. In order to protect these resources, an inventory is required. Other trees exist in parks and within landscape maintenance districts that are managed by the City. A comprehensive plan for management of these trees is necessary. Some aspects of the comprehensive plan may be extended to trees on private property, especially in commercial and industrial zones.

Abate pollution.

The City of Calabasas recognizes that citizens as a whole have a great responsibility to protect the environment. The activities of the Environmental Standards Committee cover a wide range of environmental issues. The members of the committee recognize that the Urban Forest can contribute to many of the goals, including prevention of soil erosion, improvement of air quality, and solar, wind, noise and dust control.

The Urban Forestry Master Plan should address how the Urban Forest can interact with the goals of pollution abatement throughout the City.

Establish a permanent and stable funding source.

It is a well known fact that financial resources for Urban Forestry have declined over the last decade. Urban Forestry funds are constantly at risk when other essential services compete for available funding. In order to establish the Urban Forestry program on a stable basis, a funding strategy must be developed.

Volunteers in many cities establish non-profit tree programs to supplement City programs. These non-profit entities can provide manpower for projects, organization for planting or monitoring activities and can qualify for numerous grants.

Landscape Maintenance Districts already exist for portions of the City. Funding for other areas must rely on General Funds. Generally, the Public Works Department must allocate funds and manpower for parks and street trees not otherwise covered by a Landscape Maintenance District. Again, resources are tight and trees often get the short end of the stick.

Other public programs can also be pursued to secure funding for Urban Forestry. Expansion or creation of additional Landscape Maintenance Districts would be a broad-based option, while smaller programs such as "Adopt-a-Tree" can also be successful.

Develop broad-based community support.

Public participation is a significant component of virtually every aspect of City management. As previously stated, the Urban Forest is considered to be a visual resource of great value within the City of Calabasas. In order for the Urban Forestry program to be responsive to the needs and desires of the community at large, the program must have broad-based support.

The basis for the public participation component of the Urban Forestry program will be created with the establishment of a City Tree Board. Neighborhood participation in the preparation of the Urban Forestry Master Plan should be viewed as critical to reception of the plan. Other public education and information opportunities should also be pursued as they arise, including educational forums and media events.

OBJECTIVES

To supplement the goals, a list of objectives is provided. These objectives represent specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-phased results. Each objective will be further broken down into a series of programmed tasks.

Program: Visual quality enhancement.

Create design guidelines for new plantings.

In order to create a logical, well-planned Urban Forestry program, design guidelines should be created to direct the selection of all new plantings. The term guidelines is important, as each planting selection deserves individual consideration. Selection of a tree species for a particular location has a number of factors that must be taken into account:

- **Planting location** - The planting location may be a 2 foot square tree well, a 4 foot wide parkway, an open park, or one of many other types of locations. To further complicate the issue, the site may be located beneath power lines or next to another obstacle. A species list should be developed that is adapted to the climate of the City, appropriate for each type of location.
- **Tree function** - Trees may function as solar control, accent color, screening of undesirable views, background foliage, or any number of other purposes. The basic design tenet "Form Follows Function" applies to the selection of plant material as well.
- **Relation to other trees in the area** - If a neighborhood or commercial corridor theme has been established, selection of new trees should be designed to either coincide with or complement that theme.
- **Species diversity** - Species diversity is an important component of Urban Forestry management. If all trees in a stand are of the same species and a pest infestation occurs, the entire stand may be lost. Reasonable species diversity goals are 10% overall and 25% by neighborhood, per individual species.
- **Canopy coverage** - Canopy coverage goals address the size and amount of trees desired within a community. Canopy coverage often contributes to the sense of place and character in a community. Canopy coverage is one means of controlling glare and solar impacts. A reasonable goal is 50% coverage of all paved streets and parking lots.

Implement infill planting.

Infill planting is the process whereby available planting sites are inventoried, tree species selections are established (in accordance with the design guidelines), and trees are procured, planted and incorporated into the Urban Forestry management program. Infill planting sites include spaces that once contained trees that died, were removed and never replaced, as well as new sites that never had trees but that would add to the canopy coverage goals.

Implement replanting program.

It is an unfortunate fact that many of the trees in the City of Calabasas have either surpassed or are coming to the end of their useful life. Trees in urban environments are subjected to many adverse conditions, such as mechanical damage, lack of proper care, lack of irrigation, and pollution, each of which serves to decrease the life span of a tree. Many trees outgrow their planting spaces, leading to the destruction of curbs, sidewalks, driveways, walls, and other hardscape. Other trees are in a state of decline due to old age, insect infestations or other problems and can become a hazard to the persons and property in the vicinity. In fact, various studies show that the life span of street trees in the United States averages as low as 9 to 13 years!

Each of the trees in the Urban Forest should be periodically evaluated to identify such hazards. If hazards are identified that cannot be safely mitigated, such trees must be considered for removal. A replanting program should be an integral part of the Urban Forestry Master Plan for each area. As undesirable trees are removed, new trees can be planted in accordance with the Master Plan. Annual goals should be set for infill planting.

Maintain trees to the highest maintenance standard.

As previously discussed, the life span of street trees are often limited by years of poor care and the daily stress of the urban environment. Poor maintenance practices have become the norm, due to the proliferation of unethical tree trimmers and "mow, blow and go" maintenance operations. The two greatest causes of tree mortality observed throughout Southern California are tree topping and string trimmer damage.

Tree topping is a practice that has been promoted by uninformed and dishonest tree trimmers for many years. The public has been led to believe that trees get too tall and must, therefore, be topped periodically. In fact, topping is a dangerous practice. Once a tree has been topped, corrective pruning over a period of three to five years is required to restore the balance and structure of the tree. Tree topping subjects a tree to environmental stress, hormone imbalance, reduced vigor and simply put, is just plain unsightly. One of the most important components of the Urban Forestry program in the City of Calabasas will be to outlaw this practice.

String trimmer damage is probably the greatest cause of mortality to young and old trees alike. All growth in a tree originates just below the bark in a layer called the cambium. Vessels in the tree, called xylem and phloem, carry nutrients between the root system and the leaves. These vessels are contained in the

cambium layer. When a string trimmer impacts the tree, cutting through the bark and the cambium layer, this nutrient flow is interrupted. If enough of the cambium layer is damaged, the roots and/or canopy begin to die back. If the tree cannot overcome this damage, it begins to decline and may eventually become hazardous and/or die.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) is a world-wide professional organization that is dedicated to practical application and research that focus on the biology, management and care of trees, and their relation to environmental, social and economic benefits. ISA has sponsored a number of publications that should form the basis for maintenance standards in the City of Calabasas, including: Tree Pruning Guidelines and A Guide to the Plant Health Care Management System. A set of maintenance standards and procedures should be developed to set a performance standard for all City maintenance providers. Later on, these performance standards should be incorporated into public information programs to teach homeowners about tree care. Such knowledge will allow homeowners to recognize improper practices and will eventually improve the health of the private portion of the Urban Forest.

Program: Resource protection.

Tree Preservation Ordinance.

As previously discussed, the City of Calabasas has an active Ordinance that provides protection for native oak trees. In order to achieve a comprehensive Urban Forestry program, it is important to protect other trees as well, both native and non-native. Either the Oak Tree Ordinance could be expanded to include other native and non-native trees, or a separate ordinance(s) could be prepared to address issues of native tree and habitat preservation, as well as protection of trees along streets, in parks and in other public areas. A Street Tree Ordinance is one component of the Tree City USA program.

Create conservation easements.

The creation of conservation easements on private property is one process that can to extend the reach of public Urban Forestry policy onto private lands. Such easements will likely focus on native tree and habitats. They can be tied to trail networks, ridgeline protection and continuity of wildlife corridor areas. Each new development project should be evaluated for a potential contribution to this program.

Inventory existing resources.

The first major task that must occur to actively implement the Urban Forestry management plan is to perform an inventory of all trees to be managed under the program. The tree inventory should be based upon existing, potential and infill planting sites. All of the information should be placed into a database to enable management of the data. The City of Calabasas procured a copy of Tree Keeper Jr. This system is tailored to tree management and has a capability of up to 5,000 trees.

Data to be collected includes site location, tree species, diameter, planting location description, tree health, adjacent hardscape concerns and corrective measures required. The database should be regularly updated for each maintenance procedure performed. Over time, the database will function as a forecast tool for budget and manpower estimates. Each tree in a public location should be inspected at least once per year.

Establishment of the initial database will be time consuming. Though a certain amount of volunteer assistance will be of great use for portions of the initial inventory, a certified arborist should verify all data.

Manage invasive species.

There are several plant species within the watersheds of the City of Calabasas that pose a threat to native habitat, including Castor Bean (*Ricinus communis*), Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) and Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). The species are specially adapted to the cultural conditions found throughout Calabasas. If they are not controlled, they will become more and more prevalent, crowding out and eliminating native habitat.

Management of these species is a California Department of Fish and Game condition of approval for several streambed alteration agreements in force, notably at Valdez Road and Old Topanga Canyon Road, near Mulholland Highway. City Arborist Rosi Dagit is pursuing development of a program for mapping, monitoring and control of these invasive species. The mapping and monitoring portions program will be implemented through the Ecology Club at Calabasas High School. Their efforts will lead to the establishment of an invasive plant removal program to be performed by a qualified pest control applicator firm.

Stabilize soils.

A number of areas throughout the City suffer from adverse geological conditions. As a result of the need to repair slides, native habitat has been removed. One example is the slide repair on Mulholland Highway, across from Calabasas High School and near the intersection of Old Topanga Canyon Road. A significant number of majestic oak trees had to be removed in order to stabilize the slope. If earlier planning practices had been taken into account, this unsightly and costly repair may have never been required.

In yet other areas, slides are gradually occurring. The potential for further loss of habitat is high in these areas. Such areas should be identified and remedial programs initiated to halt the destruction of further resources.

Program: Pollution abatement.

The following objectives are interlaced with other goals and objectives contained in this Strategic Plan, as well as in the City of Calabasas General Plan. Each of them relates to mitigation of various forms of urban pollution. Design guidelines

should include provisions to incorporate the value of trees toward each of the identified pollution abatement opportunities.

Prevent soil erosion.

This objective parallels the previously mentioned objective of stabilization of soils to protect existing resources. Planting of additional trees, with their extensive root systems, will result in less soil erosion during winter storms.

Improve air quality.

It is a well-documented fact that trees increase oxygen levels, improving air quality. There has been recent note of the fact that trees also emit biogenic hydrocarbons. Emission levels vary greatly among species. The biogenic hydrocarbons in and of themselves do not present a problem. However, when mixed with nitrous oxide (NOx) emissions from combustion engines, the resultant is the pollutant ozone. Some critics argue that air pollution would be reduced if trees were removed from cities. The heating affect of up to ten degrees would far outweigh the benefits.

Employ passive solar control.

Trees properly used to shade buildings reduce energy requirements for air conditioning and heating. Deciduous trees provide shade in the hot summer and drop their leaves to let warmth in during the cooler periods of winter. Shade trees can cut air conditioning costs by as much as 50% in summer.

Establish windbreaks.

Properly grouped and placed trees ameliorate the effect of wind, especially in urban environments. In winter, windbreak trees can reduce heating bills by as much as 30%.

Mitigate noise and dust.

The canopies of trees are great collectors of particulates that comprise a portion of air pollution. These particulates, including dust, are then washed from the trees during a rain storm. Likewise, the canopies act as a buffer to muffle undesirable noise, from freeways and other major streets.

Program: Urban Forestry funding.

More than one Urban Forestry program in Southern California is suffering from the lack of a permanent, stable funding source. As the competition and demand for general funds for essential services, such as fire and police, rises, the perceived need for "extras" such as Urban Forestry programs begins to suffer. Urban Forestry funding can come from a number of sources. An annual funding program should be prepared to identify potential sources and how to best utilize them.

Identify grant sources.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Urban Forestry Program (CDF) promotes Urban Forestry throughout the state. The CDF provides updated lists for grant sources on a regular basis and provides support for the development of grant proposals.

Create or expand Landscape Maintenance Districts.

The City of Calabasas assumed responsibility for the Landscape Maintenance Districts formerly managed by the County of Los Angeles. The City elected to assume this responsibility for a number of reasons. Of prime importance was a perception on the part of the citizens that service received was neither acceptable nor in balance with the annual assessments paid. Private contractors provide service on a contractual basis, with the City providing overall management.

The Landscape Maintenance Districts are under the purview of the Director of Community Services. All of the street trees within the City are not included within a landscape maintenance district. For those areas, Public Works has responsibility for management of the Urban Forest resources. At the present time, the two areas are not managed under a single program.

If all street trees were to be incorporated into an existing or into new landscape maintenance districts, the resource could be handled under a single management program. Funding for this management could be guaranteed under the annual assessment program. Funds for installation of new projects could be generated through long-term assessments or from other sources.

Utilize public programs.

Public programs can also serve as a source of funding for specific tree projects. Citizens can be encouraged to perform memorial or commemorative plantings at particular sites. An "Adopt-a-Tree" program can be established for new plantings or annual maintenance.

Program: Community support.

Recent university studies have shown that public perception of the value of and satisfaction with the Urban Forest increases dramatically as a function of the hands-on participation of the individual. If an individual participates in the planting of a tree, that person's perception of and willingness to care for that tree far surpass that of an individual that participates only financially. However, as previously stated, the Urban Forest carries a great financial obligation. Broad-based community support is essential towards insuring that the community derives all the benefits that the Urban Forest can provide, while insuring that it will survive in a healthy, sustainable manner.

Create a public participation program.

The first major step towards a successful Urban Forestry program is creation of a public participation program. Specifically, the City Council must establish a City Tree Board by approving a City Tree Ordinance.

The purpose of the City Tree Board will be to develop and administer the comprehensive city tree management program. It should be made up of five citizen volunteers, each serving a term of three years. The City Tree Board should be supported by the City Arborist, to provide technical guidance and support.

Formation of a City Tree Board is a requirement for qualification in the national Tree City USA program sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The efforts of the Tree Board can be supplemented by beautification and other civic committees. However, to insure continuity, there must be an organization with legal status that implements an annual work program.

Interact with neighborhoods.

As previously stated, satisfaction of the community with and support for the Urban Forest increases with active participation. As part of the Urban Forestry Master Plan, it is envisioned that design themes will be developed for each community. Moderated sessions should be held for each neighborhood to provide input for the establishment of these design themes.

Communication with neighborhoods prior to Urban Forestry activities in an area is not only a courtesy, but it serves to raise the consciousness of the community for the program. Door hangars, direct mailings and other forms of communication can be utilized.

Educate at diverse forums.

Community outreach programs can be implemented in almost any setting, from elementary school programs to senior discussions. Some aspect of Urban Forestry can be related to virtually every celebration. Such programs can provide a tremendous use for volunteer resources.

Utilize media opportunities.

Local media opportunities abound. Articles can be published promoting appropriate tree care activities over the seasons. Announcements and general interest stories abound. Local publications, such as the Acorn provide unlimited opportunities to spread the word about trees!

IMPLEMENTATION

There are several steps which are required to complete the Urban Forestry Strategic Plan. Each of these steps should be completed within the next three months to insure that the Urban Forestry Strategic Plan is completed and concentrated work on the Urban Forestry Master Plan can begin.

Adopt plan mission, goals and objectives.

The mission, goals and objectives presented in this Draft plan are intended to serve as a foundation. A number of City planning organizations, including staff, the Planning Commission, the City Council, the Environmental Standards Committee and concerned citizens should be provided with an opportunity to review and comment on the Draft plan. Once revised, the final Urban Forestry Strategic Plan should be submitted for adoption by the City Council. It is estimated that three two-hour public input meetings should be held. In addition, time should be allowed for the City Arborist to revise the draft plan for final submission.

Total estimated cost: City Arborist, 20 hours at \$60.00 per hour = \$1,200.00.

Approve an interim City Tree Ordinance.

One of the stated goals of the City Council is to obtain Tree City USA status for 1995. In order to do so, four standards must be met:

- Standard 1 - A tree board or department
- Standard 2 - A City Tree Ordinance
- Standard 3 - A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at Least \$2 per Capita
- Standard 4 - An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

The City presently qualifies for Standards 1, 3 and 4. The City of Calabasas must approve a City Tree Ordinance in order to obtain Tree City USA status this year. Appendix A contains provisions to be used in an interim ordinance. Once the volunteer City Tree Board is active, the ordinance can be further tailored to the needs of the City.

Total estimated cost: City Arborist, 10 hours at \$60.00 per hour = \$600.00.

Create detailed implementation plan and time schedule.

After the final mission, goals and objectives are created, a detailed implementation plan and time schedule should be prepared for the Urban Forestry Master Plan.

Total estimated cost: City Arborist, 20 hours at \$60.00 per hour = \$1,200.00.

SUMMARY

Adoption of a Urban Forestry Strategic Plan is the initial step to a successful Urban Forestry Plan for the City of Calabasas. Creation of a sustainable urban forest will enhance the quality of life for the people of Calabasas.

APPENDIX A - INTERIM CITY TREE ORDINANCE

Section 1. Definitions

Street trees: "Street trees" are herein defined as trees, shrubs, bushes, and all other woody vegetation on land lying between property lines on either side of all streets, avenues, or ways within the City.

Park Trees: "Park trees" are herein defined as trees, shrubs, bushes and all other woody vegetation in public parks having individual names, and all areas owned by the City, or to which the public has free access as a park.

Section 2. Creation and Establishment of a City Tree Board

There is hereby created and established a City Tree Board for the City of Calabasas, California, which shall consist of five members, citizens and residents of this city, who shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the City Council.

Section 3. Term of Office

The term of the five persons to be appointed by the mayor shall be three years except that the term of two of the members appointed to the first board shall be for only one year and the term of two members of the first board shall be for two years. In the event that a vacancy shall occur during the term of any member, his successor shall be appointed for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 4. Compensation

Members of the Board shall serve without compensation.

Section 5. Duties and Responsibilities

It shall be the responsibility of the Board to study, investigate, council and develop and/or update annually, and administer a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public areas. Such plan will be presented annually to the City Council and upon their acceptance and approval shall constitute the official comprehensive city tree plan for the City of Calabasas, California.

The Board, when requested by the City Council, shall consider, investigate, make finding, report and recommend upon any special matter or question coming within the scope of its work.

Section 6. Operation

The Board shall choose its own officers, make its own rules and regulations and keep a journal of its proceedings. A majority of the members shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 7. Street Tree Species to be Planted

The following list constitutes the official Street Tree species for the City of Calabasas, California. No species other than those included in this list may be planted as Street Trees without written permission of the City Tree Board. This

list shall be replaced when an Urban Forestry Master Plan is adopted by the City.

Small Trees

Cercis occidentalis
Lagerstroemia indica
 (standard)
Nerium oleander
 (standard)
Rhaphiolepis 'Majestic
 Beauty' (standard)

Medium Trees

Acacia cognata
Brahea edulis
Callistemon citrinus
Eriobotrya deflexa
Hymenosporum flavum
Pyrus calleryana
 'Aristocrat'
Pyrus calleryana
 'Redspire'
Pyrus kawakamii
Washingtonia robusta

Large Trees

Albizia julibrissin
Bauhinia variegata
Brachychiton acerifolius
Brachychiton populneus
Callistemon viminalis
Calocedrus decurrens
Eucalyptus gunnii
Eucalyptus rudis
Eucalyptus sideroxylon
Geijera parviflora
Ginkgo biloba (grafted
 male)
Jacaranda mimosifolia
Liriodendron tulipifera
Pistacia chinensis
 (grafted male)
Podocarpus
macrophyllus
Quercus ilex
Rhus lancea
Sophora japonica
Ulmus parvifolia
 (cultivars)
Umbellularia californica

Very Large Trees

Alnus cordata
Betula nigra 'Heritage'
Celtis sinensis
Cinnamomum
camphora
Eucalyptus citriodora
Fraxinus velutina glabra
 'Modesto'
Koelreuteria bipinnata
Koelreuteria paniculata
Liquidambar styraciflua
 (cultivars)
Magnolia grandiflora
 (cultivars)
Morus alba (fruitless)
Pinus canariensis
Platanus acerifolia
 'Bloodgood'
Podocarpus gracillior
Quercus suber
Sequoia sempervirens
 (cultivars)
Tipuana tipu
Zelkova serrata

Section 8. Spacing

The spacing of Street Trees will be in accordance with the species size classes listed in Section 7 of this ordinance, and no trees may be planted closer together than the following: Small Trees, 20 feet; Medium Trees, 20 feet; Large Trees, 30 feet, and Very Large Trees, 40 feet; except in special plantings designed or approved by the City Arborist.

Section 9. Distance from Curb and Sidewalk

The distance trees may be planted from curbs or curblines and sidewalks will be in accordance with the four species size classes listed in Section 7 of this ordinance, and no trees may be planted closer to any curb or sidewalk than the following: Small Trees, 1 foot; Medium Trees, 1-1/2 feet; Large Trees, 2-1/2 feet, and Very Large Trees, 4 feet.

Section 10. Distance from Street Corners and Fire Hydrants

No Street Tree shall be planted closer than 35 feet of any street corner, measured from the point of nearest intersecting curbs or curblines. No Street Tree shall be planted closer than 10 feet of any fire hydrant.

Section 11. Utilities

No Street Trees other than those species listed as Small Trees in Section 7 of this ordinance may be planted under or within 10 lateral feet of any overhead utility wire, or over or within 5 lateral feet of any underground water line, sewer line, transmission line or other utility.

Section 12. Public Tree Care

The City shall have the right to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees, plants and shrubs within the lines of all streets, alleys, avenues, lanes, squares and

public grounds, as may be necessary to insure public safety or to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds.

The City Tree Board may remove or cause or order to be removed, any tree or part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or which by reason of its nature is injurious to sewers, electric power lines, gas lines, water lines, or other public improvements, or is affected with any injurious fungus, insect or other pest. This Section does not prohibit the planting of Street Trees by adjacent property owners providing that the selection and location of said trees is in accordance with Sections 7 through 11 of this ordinance.

Section 13. Tree Topping

It shall be unlawful as a normal practice for any person, firm, or city department to top any Street Tree, Park Tree, or other tree on public property. Topping is defined as the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs larger than three inches in diameter within the tree's crown to such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes, or certain trees under utility wires or other obstructions where other pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this ordinance at the determination of the City Tree Board.

Section 14. Pruning, Corner Clearance

Every owner of any tree overhanging any street or right-of-way within the City shall prune the branches so that such branches shall not obstruct the light from any street lamp or obstruct the view of any street intersection and so that there shall be a clear space of eight feet (8') above the surface of the street or sidewalk. Said owners shall remove all dead, diseased or dangerous trees, or broken or decayed limbs which constitute a menace to the safety of the public. The City shall have the right to prune any tree or shrub on private property when it interferes with the proper spread of light along the street from a street light or interferes with visibility of any traffic control device or sign.

Section 15. Dead or Diseased Tree Removal on Private Property

The City shall have the right to cause the removal of any dead or diseased trees on private property within the city when such trees constitute a hazard to life and property or harbor insects or disease which constitute a potential threat to other trees within the city. The City Tree Board will notify in writing the owners of such trees. Removal shall be done by said owners at their own expense within sixty days after the date of service of notice. In the event of failure of owners to comply with such provisions, the City shall have the authority to remove such trees and charge the cost of removal on the owners property tax notice.

Section 16. Removal of Stumps

All stumps of street and park trees shall be removed below the surface of the ground so that the top of the stump shall not project above the surface of the ground.

Section 17. Interference with City Tree Board

It shall be unlawful for any person to prevent, delay or interfere with the City Tree Board, or any of its agents while engaging in and about the planting,

cultivating, pruning, spraying, or removing of any Street Trees, Park Trees or trees on private grounds as authorized in this ordinance.

Section 18. Arborists License and Bond

It shall be unlawful for any person or firm to engage in the business or occupation of pruning, treating or removing Street or Park trees within the City without first applying for and procuring a license. The license fee shall be \$25 annually in advance; provided however that no license shall be required of any public service company or City employee doing such work in the pursuit of their public service endeavors. Before any license shall be issued, each applicant shall first file evidence of possession of liability insurance in the minimum amounts of \$50,000 for bodily injury and \$100,000 property damage indemnifying the City or any person injured or damage resulting from the pursuit of such endeavors as herein described.

Section 19. Review by City Council

The City Council shall have the right to review the conduct, acts and decisions of the City Tree Board. Any person may appeal from any ruling or order of the City Tree Board to the City Council who may hear the matter and make final decision.

Section 20. Penalty

Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall be, upon conviction or a plea of guilty, subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000.

