

City of San Leandro

**Public Works Department**

# City Tree Program



- The Benefits of Trees
- Tree Maintenance and Care
- Tree Selection
- Tree Planting



The Public Works Department is responsible for approximately 20,000 trees within the public right-of-way in front of residential and commercial property and in City parks.

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## Request for Planting of New Street Tree

A property owner in San Leandro who desires a City tree, and has room within the public right-of-way, may request to have a new tree planted at a cost of \$100 per tree and \$50 per concrete **cutout, up to 4'x4'**.

Contact Public Works at (510) 577-3448 to make a request. Once the Street Supervisor has inspected the site and approved a new planting, you may select from the appropriate list of trees.

New tree(s) are typically planted within four weeks. The property owner is responsible for watering, sweeping leaves and notifying the City of any problems with the tree(s). The City will trim the tree(s) as necessary.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tree Planting Location (e.g. in front of house): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of trees to plant: \_\_\_\_\_

Tree(s) Selection: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba* "Autumn Gold")

- Very slow growth
- Up to 10 feet in 10 years
- Matures to 35—50 feet tall
- Deciduous tree
- Light green, fan-shaped leaves that turn brilliant yellow in the Fall
- Fruitless
- Requires some water in the Summer, even after it is established



### Chinese Flame Tree (*Koelreuteria bipinata*)

- Moderate growth
- 18 feet tall in 10 years
- Matures at 30 feet tall in 20 years
- Deciduous tree
- Showy, yellow flower clusters in the Summer or Fall
- Multi-colored yellow and bronze foliage follows the flowers
- Large, red-pink 2-inch dry seed capsules in the Fall; prolific



### Arizona Ash (*Fraxinus velutina*)

- Moderate to fast growth
- Deciduous tree
- 30—50 feet tall when mature
- Light to medium green leaves; turn yellow in the Fall
- Medium yellow or green winged seeds, fruiting in Summer or Fall

## Tree Services Summary

How do I know if a tree is maintained by the City?

Trees planted within the public right-of-way are City trees. This area is typically between the sidewalk and the street, but it varies throughout the City. Contact Public Works to determine if the tree in front of your property is a City tree.

Does the City trim trees?

Yes. Trees are trimmed on a regular schedule in predetermined areas. Young trees are trimmed to develop proper growth habits, and older trees are trimmed based on the needs of the tree. Individual requests for tree trimming are prioritized based on the condition of the tree and urgency of the request.

Does the City top trees?

No. Topping is not a horticulturally sound practice and weakens a tree. If a tree is properly pruned, no more than one third of the crown is removed. Topping ruins the natural form of the tree and is more costly to maintain than a tree that is left to grow naturally.

Does the City charge for tree planting and maintenance?

**The City charges \$100 per new tree and \$50 per concrete cutout, up to 4'x4'.** Public Works provides trimming, thinning, and root pruning at no charge.

Does the City remove trees?

Yes, under some circumstances.

Does the City prune tree roots?

Yes. Upon request, Public Works will remove or cut troublesome surface roots or roots which have the potential to damage concrete, only if it will not harm the health or stability of the tree.

Does the City respond to tree-related emergencies?

Yes. Contact the Public Works Department for assistance. If the situation occurs after regular business hours and requires immediate attention, call the San Leandro Police Department at (510) 577-2740.

Does the City treat trees for pests and disease?

No. The City does not spray street trees, due to cost and water quality concerns.

## The Benefits of City Trees

City trees often serve several architectural and engineering functions. They provide privacy, emphasize views or screen out objectionable views. They reduce glare and reflection. They direct pedestrian traffic. They provide social, environmental and economic benefits to the community.

Trees alter the environment by moderating climate, improving air quality, conserving water and harboring wildlife.



Climate control is obtained by moderating the effects of sun, wind and rain. Radiant energy from the sun is absorbed or deflected by leaves on deciduous trees in the summer and is only filtered by branches of deciduous trees in winter. Trees intercept rain water, store some of it and reduce storm runoff and the possibility of flooding.

Dew and frost are less common under trees because less radiant energy is released from the soil in those areas at night. Temperature in the vicinity of trees is cooler than that away from trees. By using trees in the cities, we are able to moderate the heat-island effect caused by pavement and buildings in commercial areas.

Air quality can be improved through the use of trees. Leaves filter the air we breathe by removing dust and other particulates. Leaves absorb carbon **dioxide from the air to form carbohydrates that are used in the plant's** structure and function. In this process, leaves also absorb other air pollutants—such as ozone, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide—and give off oxygen.



Russett Magnolia  
(*Magnolia grandiflora* "Russett")

- Slow growth
- Up to 25 feet tall
- Evergreen
- Leaves are glossy green, undersides are covered with velvety, russet-colored, woolly hairs
- Showy, fragrant white flowers – 10 inches from spring to summer
- Prolific, purple or red follicle, fruiting in Summer or Fall



Red Flowering Horsechestnut (*Aesculus carnea*)

- Moderate growth Deciduous tree
- Up to 40 feet tall in 20 years
- Rounded crown with large compound leaves
- Showy, fragrant pink flowers in the Spring
- One-inch nuts in the Fall
- Occasional leaf burn, if spring weather is hotter than usual
- Drought tolerant, once established



Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*)

- Moderate to fast growth
- 25—40 feet tall
- Deciduous tree
- Vibrant blue or lavender flowers appear in early Summer, followed by fern-like leaves
- 1—3 inch seed pods form in summer, fruiting in Summer or Fall
- Tolerates a variety of soils and is resistant to oak root fungus



Saratoga Laurel (*Laurus nobilis* "Saratoga")

- Moderate growth
- Up to 20 feet tall
- Evergreen
- Thick, waxy leaves are resistant to fire
- Green, white or yellow flowers in Spring
- Small black or purple berries, fruiting in Fall



Flowering Plum  
(*Prunus cerasifera* "Krauter Vesuvius")

- Moderate growth
- Up to 25 feet
- Deciduous tree
- Deep blackish purple leaves
- Showy, fragrant light pink flowers in Spring or Winter
- Little or no fruit



Ornamental Pear  
(*Pyrus calleryana* "Chanticleer")

- Moderate growth
- Up to 25 feet tall
- Deciduous tree
- Upright in growth habit
- Leaves are glossy and bright green; multi-colored in Fall
- Showy, fragrant flowers are white and cluster in early Spring or Winter
- Small, brown or green pome, fruiting in Summer

## The Benefits of City Trees

By planting trees, we return to a more natural, less artificial environment. Birds and other wildlife are attracted to the area. The natural cycles of plant growth, reproduction and decomposition are again present, both above and below ground. Natural harmony is restored to the urban environment.

The economic benefits of trees can be both direct and indirect. Direct economic benefits are usually associated with energy costs. Air-conditioning costs are lower in a tree-shaded home. Heating costs are reduced when a home has a windbreak. Trees are a wise investment of funds because landscaped homes are more valuable than non-landscaped homes. The savings in energy costs and the increase in property value directly benefit each home owner.

The indirect economic benefits to the community or region are even greater. Lowered electricity bills are paid by customers when power companies are able to use less water in their cooling towers, build fewer new facilities to meet peak demands, use reduced amounts of fossil fuel in their furnaces and use fewer measures to control air pollution. Communities can also save money if fewer facilities must be built to control storm water in the region.



*Information provided by the International Society of Arboriculture.*

## Tree Maintenance and Care

### Tree Trimming

Public Works schedules tree trimming on an area basis and by individual request. The City is divided into twelve zones to provide for the trimming of all City trees every five years. The scheduling of tree trimming on an area basis results in a 60% increase in productivity over trimming by individual request. The City trims young street trees to develop proper growth habits at an early stage. Older trees are trimmed depending upon the needs of the tree. The Section allocates 20% of their time for trimming by individual request. Requests are prioritized based upon the need for trimming and the urgency of the request.

### Tree Topping

One of the most common requests is for a tree to be topped. Most of these requests are generated by property owners concerned about leaves or the safety of a tall tree. However, the City will not top trees because it is not a horticulturally sound practice and it weakens the tree in several ways.

Topping:

- ◆ Starves a tree since a large portion of the tree crown is removed
- ◆ Encourages insects and disease
- ◆ Creates weak branch attachments
- ◆ Ruins the natural form of a tree
- ◆ Costs more to maintain than an untopped tree



Flowering Crabapple (*Malus "Robinson"*)

- Moderate growth
- Up to 25 feet tall in 20 years
- Deciduous tree
- Rounded head and dense foliage
- Leaves are pointed oval in a deep green, gold in Fall
- Fragrant, pink flowers in the Spring, with medium orange or red fruit in the Fall
- Disease resistant
- Requires some water in the summer, even after it is established



Trident Maple (*Acer buergerianum*)

- Moderate growth
- Up to 25 feet tall
- Deciduous tree
- Fall color of orange and red
- Medium brown or yellow winged seeds, fruiting in Summer
- Drought and heat tolerant

## FOR PLANTING STRIPS GREATER THAN 3 FEET (LIST #2)



**NEW!** Red Pointe Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

- Fast growth
- Up to 40-50 feet tall
- Deciduous tree
- Deep-lobed leaves; green in Spring, brilliant red in Winter
- Red/orange flower clusters in early Spring
- Red, pink, or yellow winged seeds, fruiting in late Spring
- Disease and pest resistant



### Mayten (*Maytenus boaria*)

- Slow to moderate growth
- Up to 25 feet tall
- Evergreen
- Small, glossy green leaves
- Very small orange or red capsules fruiting in Summer
- Resembles a small-scale weeping willow
- Drought tolerant, once established



### Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica* "Muskogee")

- Moderate growth
- Up to 20 feet tall
- Deciduous tree
- Spring foliage is light green tinged with bronze
- Mature leaves are glossy green
- Fall foliage is yellow to orange-red
- Has lavender colored flowers that are crinkled and crepe-like in rounded clusters
- Small brown capsules fruiting in Fall
- Drought tolerant, once established



### Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

- Fast growth
- Up to 20 feet tall in 20 years
- Deciduous tree
- Leaves are heart shaped and a rich green
- Fall foliage is lemon yellow color
- Flowers are small and rosy-pink that cover the bare branches in Spring
- Large brown, purple, or green pods, fruiting in Summer
- Requires some summer watering, even after it is established

## Tree Maintenance and Care

### Tree Removal

Trees planted in an urban environment have both a physiological and a financial lifespan. The City has set up a tree removal process in order to **balance the individual property owner's needs and desires with the benefits that the trees provide to the entire community.** The City's Street Tree Ordinance provides for the removal of street trees only under certain circumstances and assigns responsibility for the removal to the City. Contact Public Works for more information on the criteria for removal. A replacement tree may be planted at no cost to the property owner.



### Root Pruning

Upon request, the Public Works will remove or cut troublesome surface roots or roots that have the potential to damage concrete. This is achieved by hand or with a power root cutter. This activity is encouraged because it can be an alternative to tree removal. Root pruning is reserved for those situations where it will not affect the health or stability of the tree.

### Managing Pests and Disease

The City will provide assistance to residents with concerns about a disease or pest problem with a City street tree. In addition, the City may allow residents to have their street tree sprayed by a private contractor or they can spray the tree themselves with a solution that can be purchased at most hardware stores.

Note: Article 5-2-200 *et seq.* of the San Leandro Municipal Code states that it is unlawful for any person other than the City or its contractors to remove, prune, injure or destroy a City street tree.

## Tree Planting

A property owner can request to have a City tree planted or replaced in the public right-of-way, pending approval from the Public Works Department. Once a tree request has been made, the proposed site is inspected, and the property owner is sent a list of tree choices.

The property owner is responsible for watering, sweeping or raking leaves and flowers and notifying the Section if something "doesn't look right." Watering is usually required for the first three to five years. Public Works will trim the tree as necessary.

You must remove shrubbery, concrete or bricks before planting. If you have no open space and require concrete to be removed, Public Works will provide the service for an additional fee.



THE CITY OF SAN LEANDRO CHARGES \$100 PER NEW TREE PLANTING AND \$50 PER CONCRETE CUTOUT, UP TO 4'X4'

## Tree Varieties

The Public Works Department offers a variety of trees that grow well in San Leandro, resist pests, cause minimal concrete damage, survive with minimal care by the property owner and do not require frequent pruning when mature.

The trees listed below are divided into two groups: trees for planting strips 3 feet wide or less and trees for planting strips over 3 feet wide.

### FOR PLANTING STRIPS 3 FEET WIDE OR LESS (LIST #1).



#### Standard Photinia (*Photinia fraseri*)

- Moderate to fast growth Evergreen tree
- Up to 20 feet tall
- New leaves are bronzy red in Spring and turn a glossy dark green in Summer
- Large, fragrant white flowers (clusters) in Spring; no fruit litter
- Drought tolerant, once established



#### Tristania Laurina (*Tristania laurina*)

- Slow to moderate growth
- Up to 20 feet tall
- Evergreen
- Dense round crown
- Small yellow flowers in late Spring/early Summer
- Small brown or red capsules fruiting in Summer or Fall
- Mahogany bark peels away to satiny, white new bark