

## **The Importance of Pasadena's Street Trees**

Have you noticed the street tree planted in the parkway between curb and sidewalk in front or near your property? These trees are integral to the unique character of Pasadena, which is renowned and admired for its mature urban forest. Your Pasadena Department of Public Works plants and, with your help, maintains those trees. This living forest within our city provides long-term aesthetic, environmental and economic benefits by beautifying our streets, which results in increased property values, promotes more pedestrian activity, helps reduce the cost of summer cooling, mitigates noise pollution and improves air and water quality.

Pasadena's urban forest is unique in Southern California because of its age, number of diverse tree species, and its organized planting plan. Pasadena's Master Street Tree Plan designates specific tree species for your street and for all streets in the City. This tradition began in the early 1900s when the City established a tree nursery and began to select different tree species for each street. The uniformity of tree species creates a distinctive streetscape, sometimes a corridor, sometimes tunnels of green, which contributes to the aesthetic quality of each street.

In addition, the City's Tree Protection Ordinance promotes the preservation and enhancement of our urban forest, including both public and private trees. It also recognizes that trees are often integral components of many historic sites and neighborhoods, and their presence contributes to that area's cultural and historic significance. The Ordinance prohibits the removal of street trees, and protected trees on private property, unless they are dead, diseased, or deemed a hazard. On an ongoing basis, the City replants vacant tree sites with the species called for in the Master Street Tree Plan for that particular street. Additionally, Pasadena Beautiful Foundation, a non-profit organization, promotes and funds the planting of many street trees.

In some cases, residents or businesses have desired to change the tree species designated for their street. Since it may take decades for the change of tree species to become part of the identity of the street, residents should carefully evaluate the decision to pursue a change to the designated street tree and there should be a very strong case compelling such a change.

Working together, all of us, government, civic groups, residents and businesses can promote, protect and preserve the health of the trees in Pasadena's urban forest.

Pasadena Urban Forestry Advisory Committee  
and  
Pasadena Parks and Natural Resources Division