



**City of Santa Barbara**  
Parks and Recreation Department

**Memorandum**

**DATE:** October 1, 2015

**TO:** Historic Landmarks Commission

**FROM:** Jill E. Zachary, Acting Parks and Recreation Director

**SUBJECT:** A History of Trees in Five of Santa Barbara's Oldest Parks

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As part of its ongoing efforts to implement the City's adopted 2014 Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP), the Parks and Recreation Department (Department) completed a review of the trees found in five of Santa Barbara's Oldest Parks. The review, as attached to this memorandum, documents the history of tree planting in Plaza Alameda (East and West), Orpet Park (Upper and Lower), Plaza Vera Cruz, Plaza del Mar and Mission Historical Park. The results of this review will inform future tree planting in these parks as well as park redevelopment and long-term management objectives, and supports several key objectives in the Urban Forest Management Plan, including:

- Developing a Park Tree Master Plan;
- Assessing and developing age and species criteria for City parks;
- Maintaining existing species diversity and investigate methods for increasing desirable species that are rare;
- Maintaining stands of large trees in open spaces and community and developed parks;
- Protecting and enhancing trees in historically significant parks such as through increased tree maintenance and tree planting programs; and,
- Maintaining the history, design, cultural integrity and functional use of developed parks, as feasible.

The Parks and Recreation Commission received a presentation and reviewed the report on August 26, 2015 and the Street Tree Advisory Committee reviewed the report on October 1, 2015.