

May 2016

**STREET TREE MASTER PLAN
SPECIES DESIGNATION CHANGE
FOR ADOPTION**

Date: 2/29/16

Location: 00 block of Chase Dr.

Present Species Designation: *Pyrus kawakamii*, Evergreen Pear (1977 Master Plan)



Proposed Change to: The Committee (3/0) recommends that the Commission co-designate *Prunus ilicifolia*, Holly Leaf Cherry for the 00 block of Chase Dr.

Existing Species Profile: *Pyrus kawakamii*, Evergreen Pear (1977 Master Plan)

Reasons for Recommended Change: Add Native Species.

**PARK COMMISSION ACTION
PHOTO INVENTORY**

Change Adopted:

Change Denied:

Date of Action:

2-29-16

FEB 29 2016

PARK & RECREATION
PARKS DIVISION

Request for Change of Designation of Parkway Strip Trees at 48 Chase Drive Santa Barbara

To whom it may concern,

This letter is a request for a change of designation in regard to the selected tree species designated and planted in the Parkway Strip located adjacent to the property at 48 Chase Drive in Santa Barbara California.

The current designated tree species for the Parkway Strips in the neighborhood in and around Chase Drive is the Evergreen Pear, *Pyrus kawakamii*. This species of tree occurs naturally in its native habitat of eastern mainland China as well as the island of Taiwan. According to the Köppen climate classification the climate of China is a moderate climate with wet summers and is known as a Cw-climate. China being the only county in the world which has its own designated climate classification, the Cw-climate. The city of Shanghai on the coast of eastern China receives 43.7 inches of precipitation annually. While the island of Taiwan receives 98 inches of average annual precipitation! The area where this tree is from and has evolved, receives far more precipitation than Southern California which is designated by the Köppen climate classification as having a Warm-summer Mediterranean climate. The average annual precipitation in Santa Barbara is 19.4 inches. With regular watering in the climate of Southern California, *Pyrus kawakamii* will do fine and mature into an aesthetically pleasing medium sized specimen tree. *Pyrus kawakamii* is considered to be a 'Medium Water Needs' tree according to San Marcos Growers, on their website it reads, "These plants require a regular irrigation regime to persist and be presentable in the garden. These plants are not necessarily considered "thirsty" and include most of the plants in the typical urban landscape. In our cool coastal climate these plants, once established in the landscape, would require irrigation once a week to once every other week. In hotter and drier times of the year, some of these plants may require more frequent irrigation and may also not require any supplemental irrigation during winter or when spring rains are abundant" (http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=1333). The two particular trees located in the Parkway Strip adjacent to 48 Chase Drive based on the age of the development are around 50 years old. Although well along in age the two trees in the Parkway Strip are both of rather small stature and are of stunted habit and form due to the lack of a regular water regime. In essence the designated tree species is not compatible to the climate in the region of the city where it is designated without significant supplemental water.

2-29-16

In this current time of severe drought with the local reservoirs at historic lows it is now no better time to reconsider the appropriate tree species that can and should be planted in Santa Barbara.

This request for change of designation is based on the selection of two appropriate regionally specific, medium sized native California trees. The inclusion of native California trees that are regionally specific and have adapted and evolved through thousands of years to match the climate of the area are fine selections for any region of the city and particularly this area as it is located on a rather warm to hot south facing slope in the hills. In the Santa Barbara Municipal Code Chapter 15.20, Tree Planting and Maintenance, in the section 'Title' (15.20.010), the opening statement reads; "Recognizing that the urban forest is a valuable asset to the City of Santa Barbara...." This statement alone could not be more fitting and true of how important the city's trees are to the feel and character of the city of Santa Barbara. This being said, there is always room for improvement and the inclusion of native species should be paramount in the landscape of the urban forest of Santa Barbara. One reason is the fact that once established native California trees require very little to no water. A few gallons a month will keep them looking good in the driest of years.

The two tree species that are of interest for replacement, are regionally specific native California trees, *Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. aspleniifolius*, the Santa Cruz Island Ironwood and *Prunus ilicifolia ssp. lyonii*, the Catalina Cherry. These trees are considered 'Low Water Needs' plants by San Marcos Growers, on their website it reads, "These plants might survive on normal rainfall in our coastal climate but definitely respond to occasional but infrequent irrigation. In our own test gardens plants in this category, once established in the landscape, would be given a deep irrigation every 4 to 6 weeks." (http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=1024) (http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=1324).

These trees also provide another crucial ecological aspect that many native trees and plants possess, providing habitat for native insect pollinators. Such is the case for the *Prunus ilicifolia*, the caterpillars of the pale swallowtail butterfly, (*Papilio eurymedon*) forage on this plant in their larval stage. These two ecological based reasons alone, the saving of water and habitat for native insects, should be sufficient reason to consider and grant a change of designation in tree

2-29-16

species for the Parkway Strip located adjacent to 48 Chase Drive in Santa Barbara. The aesthetic value cannot be dismissed as well, as they are both beautiful species that hold their vibrant green color year-round and have very showy blooms.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.

Bryan Van Derhyden Garden Designer

C-27 935303

(805)698-1526

bryanvgardens@gmail.com

