

Santa Barbara Urban Forest Project
Preserving and Protecting Our Community Trees

Vision

Santa Barbara's urban forest is healthy and diverse, and contributes to the community's economic, environmental, and aesthetic vitality. It is valued and cared for by the City and its citizens, and reflects our horticultural heritage.

Mission

Preserve, protect and enhance our trees, promote the benefits of trees, and foster a healthy and diverse urban forest.

Draft Objectives and Key Actions

Tree Resource Objectives

- Maintain trees to promote safety, health and longevity
- Provide community wide sustainable tree canopy
- Maximize canopy cover
- Optimize age and enhance species diversity
- Maximize the economic, environmental, and aesthetic benefits of the urban forest
- Enhance and preserve native trees in riparian areas and protected open spaces

Key Actions

- Maintain the City tree inventory and assess citywide tree canopy
- Update Street Tree Master Plan to establish diversity criteria, revise street tree designations, etc.
- Expand street tree planting and replacement program to 500 trees per year
 - Prioritize neighborhoods with the fewest trees
- Increase street tree trimming/maintenance cycle
- Develop long-term street tree plans for major commercial corridors and public areas including: Upper State, De La Vina Street, Carrillo Street, Milpas, etc
 - Integrate street tree plans with land development and public infrastructure improvements
- Develop tree resource management guidelines that balance tree preservation with solar access and solar energy system design
- Develop Park Tree Master Plan

- Organize by park type, location open space, developed parks, community parks
 - Develop planting plan to increase canopy, restore riparian areas, address aging tree resources
- Work with Southern California Edison to develop tree replacement plans for City streets and public areas where mature trees conflict with high voltage lines
- Develop a tree preservation outreach and education program to
 - Expand community participation in tree preservation efforts
 - Enhance public knowledge and compliance with tree preservation policies
 - Provide incentives for the planting and proper maintenance of trees on private property

City Organization Objectives

- Increase funding to better manage tree resources and community outreach
- Improve interdepartmental communication and coordination related to tree preservation/enhancement
- Improve interagency coordination and partnerships
- Increase staff and Board and Commissioner knowledge of tree preservation policies and urban forest management objectives

Key Actions

- Develop a comprehensive budget as part of the City's annual budget process
- Identify and obtain external sources of funding to support the goals and strategies of the Management Plan.
- Establish formal urban forest team comprised of staff from Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Community Development
- Implement annual staff and board/commission tree training program

Policy and Planning Objectives

- Integrate urban forest management plan with General Plan, Climate Action Plan, Local Coastal Plan, Pedestrian Master Plan, Wildland Fire Plan
- Ensure tree preservation ordinances support urban forest management goals

Key Actions

- Update the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element of the General Plan
- Update tree preservation ordinances to be consistent with urban forest management plan objectives

Community Involvement Objectives

- Enhance public awareness of the urban forest as a community resource
- Expand outreach and education programs to enhance public participation in urban forest preservation and enhancement.
- Expand public/private partnerships
- Broaden public participation in the management of City street trees
- Provide community wide sustainable tree canopy

Key Actions

- Expand Develop Adopt-a-block or Adopt-a-Tree program to encourage healthy long-lived street trees
- Develop partnerships with organizations, businesses and the public school system to encourage tree health and plantings on private property
- Develop a technical assistance program to support the planting and care of private trees
- Develop a comprehensive tree education program to provide city residents with information about tree preservation policies