



CREEK TREE PROGRAM GUIDELINES



The following terms and conditions apply to the City of Santa Barbara Creeks Division Creek Tree Program:

1. Participation in this program is voluntary.
2. The program is available for properties within the City of Santa Barbara only.
3. Participation in the program; including site suitability, eligibility, and project scope, is at the sole discretion of the Creeks Division Manager and will depend on site characteristics. In order to be eligible for the program, a site must not have creek banks with significant erosion or potential for significant erosion and must have the potential to improve riparian habitat through participation in the program.
4. The program will include planting of native riparian trees only. No non-native trees will be planted as part of the program.
5. Participation in the program may be conditioned upon the removal of non-native trees and understory plants where deemed appropriate and necessary for the survival of the new native trees. Any trees or plants that will be required to be removed will be identified prior to participation in the program.
6. The program will include installation of drip irrigation.
7. The purpose of the program is to restore riparian and aquatic wildlife habitat along City creeks. The tree plantings are not designed for or intended to provide erosion control or creek bank stabilization.
8. Program plantings are not to be used to satisfy mitigation requirements for proposed or existing development.
9. The property owner must be willing to sign an agreement with the City including a promise to maintain the trees (including irrigating and weeding) for a minimum of 5 years with annual City inspections.
10. The Creeks Division will perform annual inspections to monitor tree health and survival rates.
11. For approved projects up to \$1,000, the Creeks Division will provide all project funds (no cost to the property owner).

12. For approved projects over \$1,000 and up to \$5,000, the Creeks Division will provide the first \$1,000, and 75% of the project cost between \$1,000 and \$5,000. The property owner will provide 25% of the project cost between \$1,000 and \$5,000. For example, if the total project cost is \$3,000, the Creeks Division will provide \$2,500 and the property owner will provide \$500. The maximum project cost for any project in the Program is \$5,000.
13. Creeks Division staff will coordinate with the property owner and their landscape contractor (if applicable) regarding design, native tree installation, non-native tree removal, irrigation and maintenance. Creeks Division staff would design the tree planting and irrigation layout. The Creeks Division would hire a licensed contractor to perform the tree installation, tree removal, and irrigation work.
14. If more than 30% of the project trees are intentionally removed or perish due to a lack of proper maintenance within one year of installation, the property owner will be responsible for reimbursing the City for all project costs paid by the City.

