

# CORRESPONDENCE

## Gao, Beilei

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**From:** Robles, Sandra  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 2:28 PM  
**To:** Gao, Beilei  
**Subject:** FW: Design Commission Meeting of May 27th, Agenda Item #4A -- Recommendation to City Council

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**From:** julianna <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 12:37:55 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark <[mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net)>  
**Cc:** Johnson, Kevin <[kevinjohnson@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:kevinjohnson@cityofpasadena.net)>; Cole, Rick <[rcole@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:rcole@cityofpasadena.net)>; Gordo, Victor <[vgordo@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:vgordo@cityofpasadena.net)>; King, Michael <[MKing@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:MKing@cityofpasadena.net)>  
**Subject:** RE: Design Commission Meeting of May 27th, Agenda Item #4A -- Recommendation to City Council

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Dear City Clerk,

Please find attached my memo regarding the Design Commission's meeting of May 27, 2025, Agenda Item #4A, "Tree Protection Ordinance," and the action taken. Please also find attached the public comment letters received.

Please submit the attachments to the City Council and agendize the item for Council discussion.

Respectfully,  
Julianna Delgado  
Chair, City of Pasadena Design Commission

**Julianna Delgado, M.Arch, Ph.D, FAICP**  
President, Southern California Planning Congress  
Planning Commissioner, City of Pasadena  
Design Commissioner (Chair), City of Pasadena  
Member, Mayor's Housing Task Force, City of Pasadena

Professor Emerita, Department of Urban and Regional Planning  
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

*After enlightenment, do the laundry.*  
- Zen proverb

DATE: June 5, 2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council, City Clerk

FROM: Dr. Julianna Delgado, Chair, City of Pasadena Design Commission

RE: Action of the Design Commission at its Meeting of May 27, 2025, Action Item #4A, "Tree Protection Ordinance"

At its meeting of May 27, 2025, the Design Commission held a public meeting on Action Item #4A to consider whether to recommend that the City Council initiate amending Pasadena Municipal Code Chapter 8.52, City Trees and Tree Protection Ordinance, as it relates to public trees.

The Commission heard a presentation from Jessica Richards on behalf of the citizen ad hoc Urban Forestry Task Force (UFTF), on recommendations to strengthen the City's protection and maintenance of its public trees and reduce the number removed annually. Established in late 2024, and supported by Councilmember Rick Cole, the UFTF includes, among others, the Chairs of the Planning Commission, Design Commission, and Historic Preservation Commission, as well as members of the Environmental Advisory Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, and the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC), a standing committee of the Design Commission.

The Task Force recommended the Council revise the Ordinance to:

- *Strengthen the City's goals of climate resilience through development of a robust urban forest through current professional, certified arborist best practices, tree removal processes and procedures, and community oversight;*
- *Ensure tree equity citywide;*
- *Include the role, strengthen the composition, and increase the authority of the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC)—of which the Ordinance is silent--especially with respect to public tree removal;*
- *Define the responsibilities of abutting residents to care for and cultivate public trees adjacent to their properties and the City's need to educate them on best management practices; and*
- *Develop an Urban Forestry Management Plan that relies on current tree management best practices and policies to reduce climate change, ensure fire resistance and safety, and grow and protect Pasadena's urban forest for years to come.*

Eight speakers submitted cards, all in support of the item:

Jessica Richards (for the UFTF)

Dr. Barbara Lamprecht

Carol Hunt-Hernandez

Dr. Bernard Halloran

Ann Scheid

Mike Polka

Lisa Quinn

Councilmember Rick Cole

Prior to the meeting, the Commission received a memo from the UFTF discussing proposed changes to the Ordinance. Ten additional comment letters were received, one informational and the remainder all in support of amending the Ordinance (attached). Michael King, Dept. of Public Works/Forestry and Staff Representative to UFAC, was on hand at the meeting to answer Commission questions.

#### ACTION

After questions, hearing public comment, and deliberation, the Commission voted unanimously, 6 – 0 in favor of recommending that the City Council direct City Staff to establish a process to amend, revise, and update, as appropriate, the City's Trees and Tree Protection Ordinance, with respect to public trees, and to agendaize it for Council discussion. The Commission also discussed that the Council consider appointing a Mayor's Task Force to work with City Staff on proposed revisions.



## Takeda, Michi

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**From:** Ashley Kendall Jones [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2025 11:14 AM  
**To:** Takeda, Michi; commentsDC  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Tree Advocacy Comment

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi there,

My name is Ashley, and with the encouragement of Jessica, I'd like to share my written support for Pasadena's beautiful trees and the proposed revisions to the Tree Ordinance.

Below is a written statement of support for Tree Ordinance revisions and I'd like to request that my comment be distributed in advance to the Design Commission members.

**Our trees are more than just part of the landscape—they are vital to our quality of life. Just yesterday, while enjoying a pink sandwich from Roma with my partner, the trees provided us shade during a hot afternoon, a physical sense of comfort, and a mental one too by providing a beautiful landscape that we could enjoy.**

**It's important to have thoughtful and community-informed practices in place when it comes to the removal of these trees. I believe residents should have a voice in those decisions, and I support efforts that strengthen our ability to protect and preserve Pasadena's urban canopy.**

Best,  
Ashley Kendall Jones

# modern resources

barbara lamprecht, m.arch., ph.d.

May 27, 2025

Design Commission, City of Pasadena  
Kevin Johnson, Senior Planner

Dear Design Commission Members,

I write in support of the proposed changes to the City's tree policies and ordinance.

Apart from the obvious gifts of trees and the excellent recommendations you have received and will hear more about tonight, some additional thoughts come to mind:

*. Whether native or not, large trees must not be penalized for just reaching maturity and doing their critical work of providing a substantial canopy. It is long recognized that trees give much more than we give them: oxygen, absorption of carbon dioxide, shade for humans, shelter for birds and insects, and acting to blocking the sun's rays before they hit and heat pavement. In terms of economics, trees increase property values. In other words, their benefits are priceless.*

*. Ensure an appeals process to slow or eliminate hasty demolition of trees.*

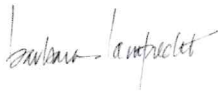
*. Street trees need to be maintained. Before water restrictions, many business and private owners allowed water to wash down to streets and the trees on parkways. Now these trees are no longer even exposed to these ad-hoc sources of water. What about reducing water bills if property owners water their street trees? Given climate change, street trees play an ever more critical role for pedestrians.*

*. The need for "tree equity" in our city is a vital concern. On Lake Avenue, walk one block south and then walk one block north at the intersection of the 210 Freeway and the avenue and you will immediately understand "tree equity" in a visceral way. The great landscape architect Garrett Eckbo understood that the presence of trees was indeed a measure of democracy, that all persons need to be exposed to the beauty and benefits of our noble companions. We need to embody Eckbo's values as well. Thousands of research studies show that the exposure to nature is critical to human well-being, physically and psychologically.*

Just as tree mature, we need to "mature" our approach to and gratitude for trees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,




Barbara Lamprecht

## Takeda, Michi

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**From:** Gerald Hernandez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2025 3:09 PM  
**To:** commentsDC  
**Subject:** Update to the City's Tree Ordinance

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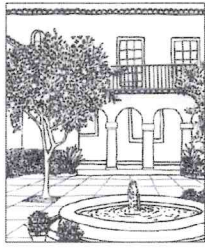
Dear Design Commissioner Members:

As I member of the Urban Forestry Task Force I urge you support the suggestions that are included in the letter submitted by Jessican Richards. The task force has worked diligently over the last several months reviewing the existing ordinance that was adopted in 2019. There are many recommendations, but several stand out as very important. One is strengthening the role of UFAC in its review process; increase the appeal process from 10 to 30 days - it is almost impossible for a layperson to respond that quickly to a letter or a note posted on a tree regarding removal of a tree; and a need to ensure there is tree equity throughout the city. Pasadena has been known for many years for its beautiful neighborhoods and streets and a major contributor to that are the trees. We are grateful to the officials that came before us for their foresight in creating our existing urban forest. It is now up to us to protect the trees that we have and increase the number of trees to ensure that the urban forest is sustainable for the next 100 years.

Thank you for your consideration

Carol Hunt Hernandez





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Journal of the California Garden & Landscape History Society

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## The Trees in California's Cityscapes

Matt Ritter

**W**e Californians need not travel to exotic places to see an eclectic mix of trees from all corners of the Earth; we can just stroll down a local street and look up. California's agreeable climate and rich horticultural history have converged to populate our towns and cities with trees that reward those who notice them with vibrant color, bizarre shapes, unusual textures, and unexpected smells. Besides an abundant array of native trees in their accustomed habitats, California has park, garden, and street trees—our so-called urban forest—that are among the most splendid and varied in the world. These beautiful organisms, all around us, are vital to our wellbeing and worthy of our praise and fascination.

Metropolitan landscapes are not easy places for trees, yet trees are extremely important to the quality of life of the humans around them. It is no wonder that city dwellers place such great value on their trees. Trees are giving and forgiving. They beautify our world while also making urban living healthier and more peaceful. They add oxygen to the air we breathe, offer shade, muffle noise, provide wildlife habitats, mitigate pollution, capture rainwater runoff, and help conserve electricity usage. Many trees persevere in spite of multiple adverse conditions, such as benign neglect in proper watering and trimming, root constriction and compaction, air pollution, interference from neighboring trees or overhead wires, insect invasions, random acts of arboreal violence and vandalism—and in most of California, six or more months without rain.

The physical beauty of many of California's most charming communities—such as Claremont, Chico, Davis, Pasadena, Petaluma, Palo Alto, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Santa Monica, Santa Rosa, Sonoma,

Visalia, to name just a few—in no small part is due to well-tended trees lining the streets, filling parks, gracing architecture, and inhabiting the front and back yards of most homes. Trees also make the state's largest cities—Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Oakland, San Jose, Sacramento, and Fresno—healthier and far more livable.

Most of California is blessed with a diverse and agreeable Mediterranean climate that creates a wide range of growing conditions for trees. The dry, practically frost-free areas of coastal San Diego, the warm and sunny Los Angeles Basin, the opulent and balmy gardens of Santa Barbara, the seasonally distinct, rich, alluvial plains of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, and the foggy, windswept, sandy hills of San Francisco all favor certain tree species. California's populace, with its reverence for the outdoors and desire for greener cit-

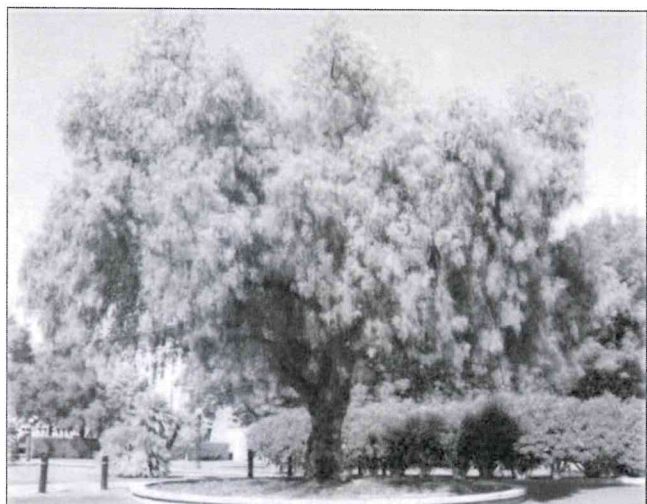
ies, has taken advantage of these diverse growing conditions for over 150 years.

Beyond the state's urban and suburban settlements, too, are many larger collections of trees. California has famous oak woodlands and mixed coniferous forests, with the tallest, largest, and most ancient living organisms in the world. There are also commercial orchards, monocultures of thousands of fruit- or nut-bearing trees regimented in neat rows, tended and harvested, year after year, as producers of valuable agricultural crops. Even most of California's desert areas have trees, such as the Joshua tree, mesquite, palo verde, and California fan palm, which over the millennia have somehow managed to push roots downward through dry ground, not just to survive, but also to reproduce, while sustaining other organisms that coexist with them in starkly beautiful but hot and inhospitable terrains.



*The "urban forest" of trees lining San Francisco's streets, in back yards, and in parks softens the overall appearance of the cityscape with its many hard-edged buildings and gives it a more humanly livable look. Photo: Matt Ritter.*





Before the first Spanish incursions into California, in 1769, the dominant trees were oaks, pines and other conifers. For millennia, oaks were prized by native Californians for their nutrient-rich acorns, the most dependable food source. Many other trees, though, had special practical uses. Oaks dominated hillsides and meadowlands, while sycamores and willows lined arroyos and rivers. Among other notable California native trees still with us are varieties of alders, ashes, buckeyes, bay laurels, cedars, cypresses, madrones, maples, pines, poplars, walnuts, and willows.

Wherever the 21 Franciscan missions were established, the padres planted trees for food and shade, such as olive, citrus, and pepper trees. Starting in the mid-19th century, when California joined the US, it soon became a home to thousands of newly introduced plants, including trees. The first nurseries were founded in the Bay Area; then others started up in the Southland as it attracted more settlers and became prosperous. Newcomers from the eastern and southern parts of the US tended to grow trees around their homes that had been familiar to them in childhood. Wealthy estate owners hired gardeners to landscape their properties with a wide variety of exotic tree specimens that arrived from other continents. Sometimes their choices were idiosyncratic,

particularly if they prided themselves on being tree-collecting connoisseurs.

By the late 19th century, many cities and towns were creating parks for public recreation, and in them tree planting was an important activity. Streets were often lined with the same tree species, to convey a uniform and tidy allée effect. Practitioners in the new professions of garden design and landscape architecture included attractive trees in their plans for homes and for beautifying civic and commercial places, often proposing species they personally favored.

Of the approximate 350,000 species of plants in the world, about 60,000 of them are trees. California can have about 300 native tree species, one third of which are found naturally nowhere else in the world. Only in recent years have people been urged to plant native California trees—particularly ones that claim the area as their own natural habitat and are therefore already adapted to soil conditions and seasonal changes in temperature, air moisture, and water availability.

Introducing exotic vegetation of course has always carried the risk of possibly importing problematic pests and weeds. Some rapidly growing trees might be listed in the latter category. For example, acacias, eucalypts, tree of heaven, Brazilian pepper, and carotwood have succeeded all too well, becoming naturalized in parts of California's urban and wildland areas, often crowding out our native vegetation.

Of the many trees wholly new to this region that have been tried, a number of them failed to thrive, but the many that succeeded now lavishly inhabit our streets, parks, and gardens. Rather like informal arboreta and conservatories, most cities and communities display a wide range of trees along their streets, around buildings, and in parks and other public places. In many of California's municipalities, the same 150 or so preferred species are widely planted as ornamental and shade trees. These trees are most commonly grown because they have earned the favor of nurserymen, city planners, or the general public.



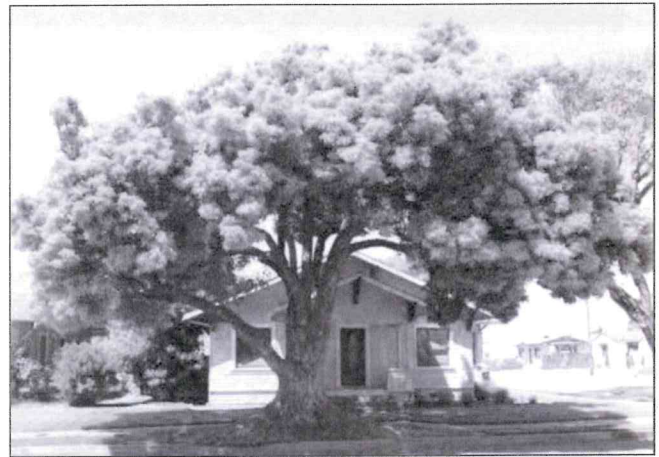
From top to bottom, page 2: Peruvian (aka California) pepper (*Schinus molle*); Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*); blackwood acacia street tree (*Acacia melanoxylon*).



They are considered beautiful, but they are also resilient and often easy to grow.

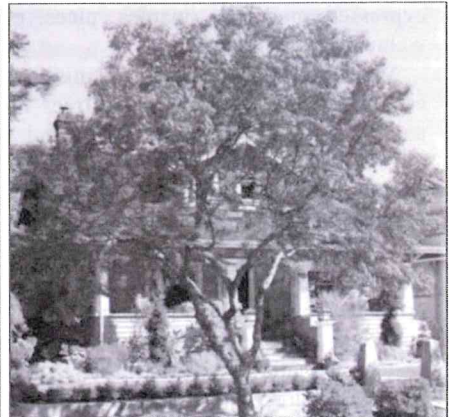
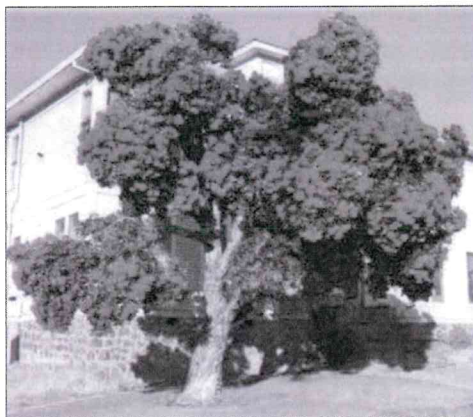
Unfortunately, city-dwelling trees have some very vocal detractors. Trees can block views of the ocean or mountains, or cast unwanted shade or debris on neighboring yards and send out invasive roots. Trees are called undesirably messy because they periodically shed leaves, needles, twigs, spent blossoms, and seed pods. Some tree pollen can cause allergies and asthma attacks. Their surface roots over time may swell and stretch, to lift up, displace, and crack sidewalks, threatening pedestrian safety. Branches, limbs, and whole trees may fall, damaging property or causing injury or death. Even ardent tree lovers get discouraged and disenchanted when their trees fail to thrive, attract undesirable pests, or contract serious diseases. Still, all these potential costs of living with trees are far outweighed by the benefits they provide for us and our cities.

At their best, trees embody the strength and beauty of the natural world. The rich and subtle connections that link humans and trees have undoubtedly existed since our primitive beginnings in arboreal habitats and the origin of human consciousness. Countless writers and thinkers have tried to interpret the obscure wisdom and ancestral nostalgia that trees seem to offer us. Trees provide a central theme in literature, art, pop culture, mythology, spiritual practices, and religion. In many cultures, trees have come to symbolize community, fertility, life, and the interdependence of the natural world. In cities, trees are often poignantly contrasted with stark buildings, sidewalks, streets, and gutters—silently reminding us of lost connections with nature and our longing for a time prior to our taming and civilization.



This article is adapted from the author's Introduction to *A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us*. Berkeley: Heyday Books, 2011.]

Tree photos from top to bottom, and left to right: camphor street tree *Cinnamomum camphora*; Lombardy poplars in winter (*Populus nigra* 'Italica'); grove of blue gums (*Eucalyptus globulus*); red flowering gum (*Corymbia ficifolia*); ginkgo with autumnal gold leaves (*Ginkgo biloba*); jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) with purple springtime flowers. All photos taken by Matt Ritter.



**Matt Ritter** is an associate professor of botany in the Biological Sciences Dept. at California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, and is also the director of its plant conservatory. He has written numerous scientific and popular articles, including contributions to the 2nd edition of the Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California and Pacific Horticulture. He has also produced field trip guides to natural history sites in the San Luis Obispo area. His most notable publication for laypersons thus far is *A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us*—to which he also provided its many photos. He received his BS from UC Santa Barbara, his PhD from UC San Diego.



# The Legacy of Pasadena's Trees

Ann Scheid

In 1907, when architect Arthur Heineman proposed to the Pasadena City Council that the city begin planting street trees, he started a program that made Pasadena one of the California's outstanding tree cities. Since Pasadena by then was an important tourist destination, its civic organizations were anxious to promote civic beautification—in the full spirit of the City Beautiful movement. Heinemann argued that street trees would improve individual property values, make the city more attractive to tourists, and provide much-needed shade from the strong Southern California sun.

The initiative to institute a street tree plan in Pasadena was in line with progressive city governments of that era throughout the United States. Trees along streets were already being viewed as standard urban amenities, along with water and sewer systems, street lighting, and paved streets with curbs and gutters, as well as public parks, public schools, and public libraries.

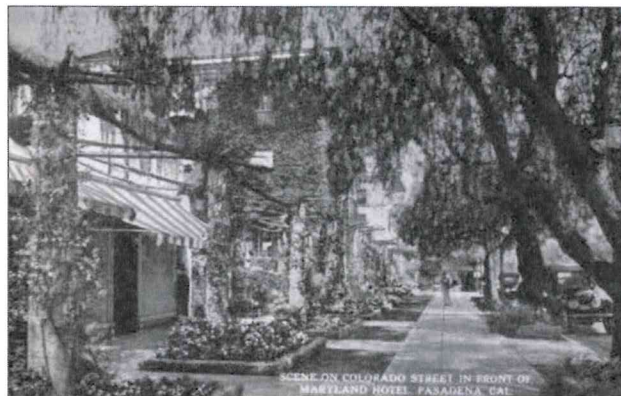
What was new then was the commitment of city governments to plant and maintain the trees in the public right-of-way between the street and the sidewalk and adjacent to the private property of a residence or commercial building. While trees had been long been planted along roads and streets, this had usually been at the initiative of the property owners, and not the responsibility of the municipality. In the process of subscribing to the modern ideas of the new professions of city planning and landscape architecture, Pasadena was in the forefront of American cities, instituting zoning regulations as early as 1914 and developing a plan for a Civic Center in the 1920s, now recognized as a landmark achievement. Pasadena's street tree program was part of this effort.

## *The Tradition of Planting Trees in Cities*

The ancient Greeks planted trees in their cities, in the *agora* for shade and in outlying athletic fields, which had a park-like character. They usually planted plane trees (*Platanus orientalis*) as ornamentals—a custom taken up later by the Romans, who also adopted many Greek agricultural practices. Trees of the same species were customarily planted in rows to mark property boundaries, thereby creating a tradition of tree-lined roads and paths. Rows of trees were also planted around vineyard edges, and of course vines and orchard trees were regimented in multiple rows.

Roman garden design used these agricultural forms ornamentally, as the powerful visual effect on the landscape of tree-lined roads, tree-lined vineyard paths, and tree rows in orchards was carried over into garden design. Both literary and physical evidence substantiates the use of rows of trees of a single species as design elements in ancient gardens and parks. The development of axial relationships in villa architecture in Roman times also influenced garden design; as the largest plants in the garden, trees in rows strengthened the architectural expression to the overall design.

Medieval gardens continued this custom of planting trees



Many collectors' postcards picturing Pasadena scenes before color photography became available are hand-colored. This photo shows the famous pergola fronting the shops of the Maryland Hotel, as well as the pepper trees that lined Colorado Boulevard from the 1890s through the 1920s.

in rows. In the largest gardens, hunting parks for royalty, "trees [were] arranged in rows radiating away from the palace, so that members of the court could watch the wildlife flitting back and forth among the allées." In addition, in "walks or bowers made entirely of leafy trees," the "king and queen may sojourn under cover without rain." (Calkins, 165-166, 173) Medieval cities did not usually have trees in public spaces; instead, trees were relegated to gardens at the rear of the house.

In his definitive history of tree planting in cities, *City Trees: A Historical Geography from the Renaissance through the Nineteenth Century*, Henry W. Lawrence writes that the double row of trees, or *allée*, was borrowed for aesthetic reasons from garden design and used in cities for social purposes, such as promenades, later appearing as carriage-ways, and finally as modern urban streets. In Baroque cities, tree-lined avenues were developed as military parade routes—settings for the display of power. Individual nations developed cultural traditions, such as the Dutch practice in the 1600s of planting trees along canals, the British preference for enclosed park-like residential squares, and the tree-lined boulevards that characterized Paris, beginning in the 18th century. Early regulations in Amsterdam required each property owner to plant one tree along the frontage of his lot facing the canal. Berlin was unusual among German cities for its promenade Unter den Linden (Under the Lindens), dating from the late 1600s and created by the monarch. These various ways of introducing trees into the city were emulated by many European cities, and eventually also in American cities.

In the United States, early colonial cities were utilitarian commercial centers, where beautification took second place to practical concerns. Tree planting was up to the individual property owners, but was not required. New England towns,



usually surrounded by forests, were generally treeless. One would have expected that Nieuw Amsterdam (New York) would follow the Dutch tradition, but it had few street trees before the 1700s, when the city council allowed property owners along Broadway to plant trees in front of their houses. Scattered records show that other Manhattan streets also had trees. The South had few urban centers, with Charleston and Savannah the exceptions. The trees in Charleston's private walled gardens sometimes branched over into the streetscape but were not planted as a public amenity. And though Savannah had urban squares, they usually remained treeless until after Independence.

The development of American cities accelerated after Independence. The responsibility for initiating street-tree planting programs in cities gradually moved from homeowners and neighborhood groups to the municipality as a whole. A primary model was Washington DC, where L'Enfant's plan based on French prototypes called for broad avenues planted with trees. After New Orleans became part of the US, its fortifications were replaced with streets lined by double rows of trees, in the French manner.

Increasingly, American garden designers, landscape architects, and horticulturists traveled abroad and brought back ideas from the cities they visited. In mid-19th century Britain, the public parks movement expanded, and with the growth of London, new streets in wealthier areas often included street trees. London residential suburbs consisted of single family houses or duplexes set in gardens, whereas in Paris the new suburbs consisted predominantly of apartment blocks—a pattern common to most cities on the Continent. In the 1850s and 1860s Haussmann transformed central Paris, creating public tree-lined squares and tree-lined boulevards extending to new planned residential developments on the outskirts. In Berlin, the practice of planting street trees in the new residential neighborhoods of the expanding city was adopted by many other German cities.

Meanwhile, plant explorers were traveling the globe, bringing back exotic tree species to contribute to botanical gardens and nurseries. Many of the newly discovered species were adopted as both ornamental garden trees and street trees. The London plane tree, a cross between the

Eurasian plane tree and the American sycamore, became the standard street tree in many European cities.

Both European and American cities were developing what would become the standard features of city streetscapes: house numbers, mail delivery, lighting, water, gas, and sewer systems, and paved streets with a special space for trees between curb and sidewalk. In the US, the growth of suburbs in the late 19th century extended the presence of city street trees to these newly evolving landscapes. Planting them became a necessary part of any new development in town, city, or suburb, and by the early 20th century doing this no longer depended on private citizen initiative, but had become an accepted role of city governments, as promoted by the nationwide City Beautiful movement—initially inspired by the combination of innovative, and often monumental, civic-style architecture and correlative landscaping (notably with trees) at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.



*The native oak preserved at the intersection of Orange Grove and California had a seat built around it for passersby to enjoy.*

### ***Pasadena's Native Trees and Initial Tree Plantings***

Pasadena's earliest settlers recognized the beauty of the landscape, a mesa dotted with native live oaks at the foot of the forested San Gabriel Mountains, and bordered by verdant canyons where willows and California sycamores grew. Daniel Berry, who in 1873 selected the site for the new settlement, next to the canyon of the Arroyo Seco, described it: "The wood is plenty, the water delicious and cool, leaping out of the rocks on the sides in little cascades." Unfortunately, the spring-fed Arroyo land was divided among the settlers into "wood lots," and was soon denuded of most of its trees.

Pasadena residents were anxious to make their town attractive, so its original 1873 plan preserved along the new streets the existing rows of vineyards and orchards. When roadways were created, they were diverted around the native coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*). These venerable trees, standing in the middle of streets or at prominent intersections, survived into the early years of the automobile, with the last one being removed in 1916.

The earliest and most notable collection of diverse tree species was at Carmelita, located at the settlement's most prominent intersection, Orange Grove and Colorado. There



*This sepia photograph depicts Marengo Avenue suitably set up with a triumphal arch to welcome the arrival of President Benjamin Harrison and the procession accompanying him down the tree-lined boulevard.*

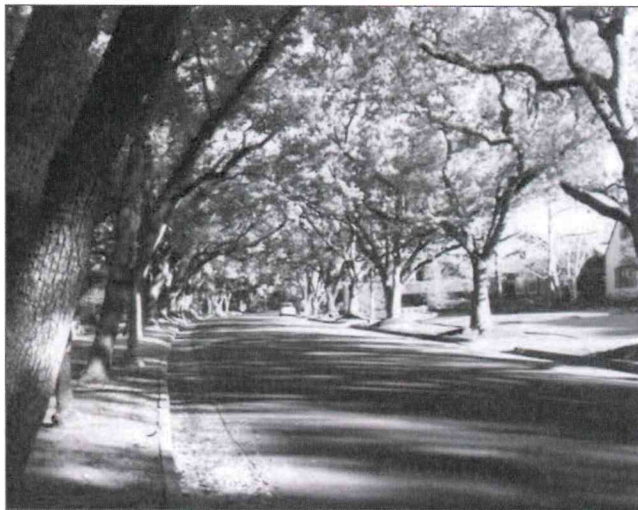


in the 1870s Jeanne Carr, a noted horticulturalist, planted a veritable forest of trees on her 42-acre estate. A native of Vermont, she was the wife of Ezra Carr, a former professor at the University of Wisconsin, where the Carrs had befriended John Muir while he was a student there. They had come to California in the 1860s when Ezra became the state's Superintendent of Public Instruction, and later moved to Pasadena. In California, their friendship with Muir resumed; he considered Mrs. Carr his "spiritual mother."

Carmelita boasted over 90 kinds of trees from all of the planet's regions, some planted from seeds brought by Muir from his wanderings in the California wilderness. White-trunked, lacy *Eucalyptus angustifolia* trees from Australia, *Araucaria imbricata* (monkey puzzle tree) from Chile, deodar cedars from the Himalayas, Atlas cedars from North Africa, Canary Island pines, Chinese elms, and *Cryptomeria* and *Photinia glabra* from Japan grew alongside native redwoods, sequoias, oaks, willows, and sycamores.

Jeanne Carr also initiated the street tree pattern in Pasadena with her planting of Monterey cypresses and California pepper trees (*Schinus molle*, actually native to Peru) the streets that bordered Carmelita, Colorado Street and Orange Grove Avenue. The cypresses formed a low hedge where, as Jeanne Carr wrote, Cherokee roses and grapes were allowed to clamber at will, "to gain a touch of wildness, as well as to secure plenteous bloom in spring and color for autumn thoughts."

Long after the Carrs' departure Carmelita survived as a public park. Reduced to a dozen acres, it served as an unofficial arboretum at one of the growing city's busiest intersections. Then the park, planned since the 1920s as the site for an art museum, was redeveloped in the 1960s when the museum (now the Norton Simon Museum) was built. Most of the landmark trees were felled to make way for the museum's parking lot.



A tunnel of camphor trees (*Cinnamomum camphora*) planted along around 1910 on Prospect Boulevard, alternating with Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*). Photo: Ann Scheid.



California coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) form living tunnels along many streets in the Bungalow Heaven Historic District. Michigan Avenue is pictured here. Photo: Ann Scheid.

### Pasadena's Street Tree Population

Unlike Eastern and Midwestern cities, where the American elm was the tree of choice to line streets, Pasadena took advantage of its benign climate, where almost anything would grow if given sufficient water. In the early years, California peppers, following Jeanne Carr's plan, were planted along Orange Grove, the city's major boulevard at the time. Monterey cypresses, again initiated by Jeanne Carr, lined part of Colorado Street—the principal cross-street, and later the city's main commercial street. Photographs from the 1880s show trees along other major streets, including Fair Oaks Avenue, with pepper trees lining Colorado east of the city center.

Acting on Arthur Heineman's proposal in 1907 for a municipal program that would plant street trees, the City of Pasadena established a tree nursery in 1909 and began to designate tree species for each street. Native trees as well as exotic species from around the globe were chosen to populate the streets, creating a diverse urban forest. The City's policy of planting a specific tree species on each street creates a distinctive urban space, sometimes a corridor, sometimes a tunnel of green, imparting a strong identity to each street and unifying the vista, even though the architecture along the street may be quite varied.

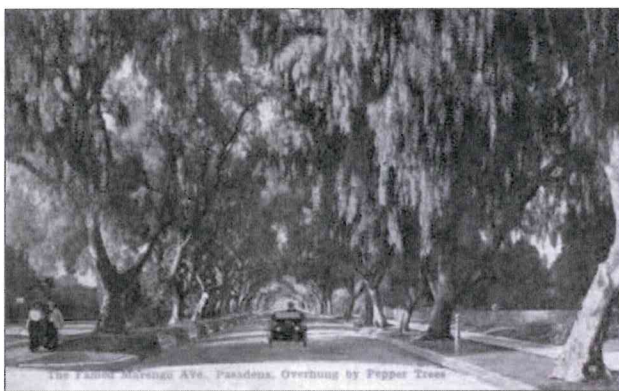
Affection for the native oaks was so great that it led to their becoming the principal street tree in the city. Parks Superintendent Gilbert Skutt declared that he wanted Pasadena to become an "oak city." After seven years of working in Pasadena in the 1920s, he was credited with planting 5,000 trees annually along city streets and in its parks (PSN Oct 2, 1930). Skutt's legacy is documented in the Street Tree Plan of 1940: of Pasadena's 392 streets, 136 of them were planted in California coast live oaks. Although most of the native oaks in the Pasadena area are this species, other oaks such as the Engelmann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*) and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) are also native to the area. A few trees that appear to be a result of interbreeding of these species were identified by Fred Boutin, formerly of



the Huntington Botanical Gardens in the 1970s; they can be found in Pasadena on neighborhood streets near the Huntington. Oaks still form impressive tree allées along many streets, including on South Arroyo Boulevard, and on Mar Vista, Michigan, Chester, and Holliston Avenues in the Bungalow Heaven Historic District.

At the beginning of the street tree program, residents were allowed to select the species to be planted on their street. As the city grew, however, and new tracts were developed, this became impractical, and the Parks Department began to select trees designated for specific streets. Following the early selection of the California pepper tree for Pasadena's main commercial street, this species was planted along other streets as well—the most famous being Marengo Avenue.

Another favorite street tree was the palm. Impressive stands of *Washingtonia robusta* (Mexican fan palm, native to Baja California), planted a century ago, still line North Mentor Avenue and also Earlham Street. Orange Grove Boulevard, where the Rose Parade begins, has California's native palm, the *Washingtonia filifera*, alternating with mature magnolias (*Magnolia grandiflora*), native to the southeastern US. Mature camphor trees (*Cinnamomum camphorum*), native to China and Japan, form street tunnels on Prospect Boulevard and on San Pasqual Street. A small street, Rutan Way, is still lined with an impressive stand of incense cedars (*Libocedrus decurrens*), native to Oregon and Northern California. Purple-blossomed jacaranda trees (originally from Brazil) form a flowering tunnel in the spring on South El Molino Avenue and



Hand-colored postcards of Marengo Ave. with its tunnel of pepper trees became a tourist favorite, showing the overhanging feathery branches of the trees and large touches of red (artistic license!) to indicate the red berries.



The oldest and most outstanding tree-lined street in the area is still Christmas Tree Lane in nearby Altadena. The deodars (*Cedrus deodara*) planted in the 1880s lining the approach to the Woodbury ranch are still illuminated during the holidays, although the once mile-long stretch has been reduced to a few blocks.



Incense cedars (*Cedrus decurrens*) line Rutan Way, alternating with Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*). Photo: Ann Scheid.

along East Del Mar Boulevard. Arden Road displays fine specimens of native California sycamores (*Plantanus racemosa*), which can lean and spread easily on this street of open lawns and no sidewalks.

Although oaks made up the preponderance of street trees in Pasadena in 1940, there were 93 designated species planted on its streets, including nine species of acacia, 10 species of eucalyptus, seven kinds of palms, and six species of oaks. Today there are over 200 species found along Pasadena's streets, but not all of those conform to the Master Street Tree Plan.

Eucalyptus trees, native to Australia, have played a major role in the history of street tree and ornamental plantings in Pasadena and throughout Southern California. They are mostly out of favor now and seldom planted widely. But their image—particularly that of the blue gum, or *Eucalyptus globulus*—remains in paintings, photographs, and advertisements from the first half of the 20th century, when their tall and graceful silhouettes symbolized the California

landscape to tourists and California residents alike.

Erika Esau, in her book *Images of the Pacific Rim: Australia and California, 1850-1935*, describes in her definitive chapter on the history of the eucalyptus in California how the seeds arrived with the gold miners in the 1850s and were spread by the nursery trade. Dr. F. Franceschi of Santa Barbara was an important early promoter of Australian plants for California use. Even native plant enthusiast Theodore Payne advocated planting the eucalyptus as a regionally appropriate tree. A speculative boom in the early 20th century led to the planting of large tracts of the fast-growing eucalyptus, referred to as "California's Mahogany," as they were intended to be used for railroad ties and commercial timber. The boom



became a bust when the wood failed to live up to the requirements of either the railroads or other timber users.

As a quick-growing ornamental tree in the landscape, however, the eucalyptus had an enormous influence. Windbreaks still line roads in the fast-disappearing agricultural lands of Southern California, and whole residential developments are still characterized by their impressive eucalyptus trees.

In Pasadena, eucalyptus and gum trees remain as street trees on a few streets, and there is a notable stand of lemon-scented gum (*Corymbia citriodora*) outside the entrance to the Athenaeum faculty club at Caltech. An entire generation of California landscape painters, now admired as “California Plein-Air” artists, were known derisively as the “Eucalyptus School,” because their paintings so often depicted the trees in the landscape.

### **Preservation of Trees in Parklands and Other Areas**

The Arroyo Seco ravine, once a beautifully wooded, spring-fed ravine, had been clear-cut by its early settlers for firewood, then tilled as agricultural land, and finally used as both an industrial site for a rock-crushing enterprise and a city dump where incinerators burned garbage. In the late 19th century Jeanne Carr was the first person to plead for preserving the Arroyo Seco by making it a public park; later, concerned citizens began calling for this, too. President Theodore Roosevelt, viewing it in 1903, even suggested creating a national park there. Within a few years, however, a consortium of wealthy residents banded together to purchase options on the many lots, holding them until the City could assemble the land for a public park, the Arroyo Seco Park that we know today.

While residents have planted on their own properties many notable and exotic trees that later became significant landmarks, the overwhelming number of Pasadena's trees are city trees, on streets and in parks. Pasadena's older parks still contain fine specimens of early tree planting. In the center of town, Central Park and Memorial Park, both established in 1906, still contain some trees from that early period. Historic photos of Memorial Park show a row of palms (*Washingtonia filifera*) bordering the west side of the park along Raymond Avenue. Now mature, the palms are still there, functioning as street trees and bearing witness to the history of the park and the street.



*Stately rows of Eucalyptus citriodora provide a formal entrance along the driveway of Caltech's Athenaeum. They were planted in 1930 to a design by landscape architect Florence Yoch. Photo: Ann Scheid.*



*During the 1920s, Colorado Boulevard's pepper trees were replaced by Queen Palms. Colorado Blvd. ca. 1939.*

In Central Park, re-landscaped by Theodore Payne and Ralph Cornell in the 1920s, several large deodars date at least from that period, if not before. Singer Park, given to the city by the Singer family in the early 20th century, boasts a large deodar, a massive eucalyptus specimen, and a rare example of *Chamaerops humilis*, a clumping palm that is the only palm native to Europe. Washington Park, created from a natural wash in 1921 and recently restored, has four memorial oaks planted in honor of John Muir, John Burroughs, Theodore Parker Lukens, and Dr. Garrett Newkirk—all important figures in the conservation movement.

The Ambassador College campus, developed in the 1960s and later by combining several large Pasadena estates along Orange Grove Boulevard (“Millionaire’s Row”), contains many fine examples of mature trees. But the most striking tree, a massive Engelmann oak, is actually a city tree along Green Street, just outside the boundaries of the campus. Another ancient oak, reputed to be over 400 years old, grows on the Caltech campus, where it has been carefully protected since the beginnings of construction on the campus in 1912. Unfortunately it is now in serious decline.

### **Commutations over Street Trees**

The fate of trees has never been taken lightly in Pasadena, and early newspaper articles document emotional pleas to protect and preserve

trees. In the early 1900s, mutilation of trees in the way of electric wires was decried. In 1906, when Colonel Marshall Wentworth proposed building his massive Hotel Wentworth (later the Huntington Hotel) among the ancient live oaks of the Oak Knoll area, he had to promise to save as many trees as possible. When the city developed Tournament Park as the site of the annual Rose Parade festivities, again the loss of native oaks was protested.

Complaints and controversies about street trees have continued over the years. Pasadena's main street, Colorado Boulevard, has been through several of tree designations. The early pepper trees were replaced in the 1920s by queen palms (*Cocos plumosa*), probably to provide an appropriately tropical setting for the annual Rose Parade—Pasadena's perennial advertisement of its climate, now watched on television by snowbound Easterners.

That tree designation, though, was changed in the 1970s to the Indian laurel (*Ficus nutida*). It provided lovely shade,



but was the bane of shopkeepers, who complained that it heaved sidewalks, invaded their sewer lines, and—most importantly—obscured their signs. By the 1980s, when the Old Pasadena Historic District began to experience commercial success, the business community demanded a change, resulting in the current planting of *Ginkgo biloba* alternating with the *Cocos plumosa* (again!) along the length of Colorado traversed by the Rose Parade. (East of the Rose Parade route the street is luxuriantly landscaped with street trees along both sidewalks and in the median.) This plan, however, did not meet with total acceptance, leading a few years ago to the infamous “Midnight Massacre,” when City workers cut down a half-dozen stately ficus trees in the middle of the night—two days before a scheduled demonstration to save the trees.

Reverberations traveled to the City Council, which then decreed that no healthy public trees are to be removed in Pasadena. Later, some of the ginkgos turned out to be females, causing the business owners to complain once again to the City—this time about the noxious stench of the fruit. In compliance with the “no healthy tree removal” policy, City staff is now experimenting with various washes and injections to reduce female fertility. With new females revealing themselves every season, this may be a fruitless effort. Time will tell.

Mindful of Pasadena’s historic legacy, the City has charged a subcommittee of the Design Commission with reviewing all changes to the Master Street Tree Plan and all



*Early photos of Library Park (now Memorial Park) show palm trees along Raymond Avenue.*



*At today’s Memorial Park the palms still line the park’s west boundary. A towering bunya-bunya tree (*Araucaria bidwillii*), native to Australia, stands to the right of the palms. Photo: Ann*

to property owners, in hopes of making Pasadena’s admirable tree legacy better known.

requests for removal of public trees. This committee, the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC), contends with everyone from discontented property owners who just don’t like the tree in front of their house, to neighborhoods who want their street tree changed, to developers who want to remove trees in the way of their projects—and numerous other complaints. The Committee also has the difficult task of determining new tree species to be planted when a large project, such as the new sound walls along the 210 freeway, require the removal and replanting of trees.

Still, we can be thankful that there is enough attention paid to trees in Pasadena to warrant a committee to watch over them. Street tree planting is no longer proceeding at the pace of 5,000 plantings a year, as in the 1920s. Now the number is closer to 1,000 a year, despite serious tree losses and neglect over the years. Many streets now have gaps where trees should be replanted; many more have non-conforming trees added by property owners who have no knowledge of the Master Street Tree Plan and its intent to create uniform street corridors. Members of UFAC are now working on a public education program that will explain the role of street trees in the design of our city and their value

**Note: All old postcards depicted in this article are copied from the author’s own collection.**

*Ann Scheid holds degrees from Vassar College, the University of Chicago, and Harvard’s Graduate School of Design. Specializing first in Germanic languages and literature, she gravitated into historic preservation after arriving in California in the 1970s. She worked for the City of Pasadena as a preservation planner and for the State of California as an architectural historian. She has written on Pasadena history, with a special interest in landscape design and City Beautiful plans in Pasadena and Southern California. She has served on the boards of the Pasadena Historical Society and the Southern California Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians. Practicing semi-retirement, she is curator of the Greene and Greene Archives at the Huntington Library. She currently serves on the CGLH board of directors as its membership secretary.*

**Bibliography ... or For Further Reading (?)**



# Bidwell Park and the Venerable Bidwell/Hooker Oak

Chris Pattillo, FASLA

Until it fell in a storm in 1977, the Bidwell, or Hooker, Oak was justifiably famous. Said to be the largest oak tree in the world, it was thought to be a thousand years old. It was over 100 feet high and its branches covered a quarter of an acre, with its limbs measuring 150 feet across and the largest one having a circumference of 15½ feet. It stood in the middle section of Bidwell Park in Chico, in what is now the “Hooker Oak Picnic Area.”

Bidwell Park, with its 3,670 acres, is the third largest urban park in the United States. Beginning in 1905, the land was an incremental gift from Annie Ellicott Kennedy Bidwell (1839–1918) and her husband. Besides being one of the first pioneers to cross the Sierra Nevada, John Bidwell (1819–1900) soon upon arrival served as the business manager for John Sutter. Bidwell

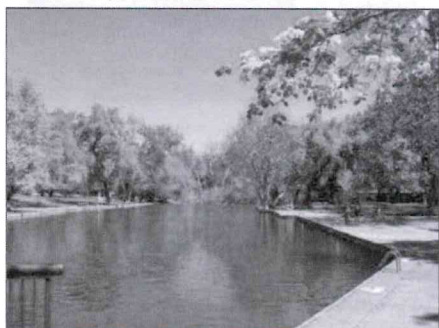


*The Bidwell/Hooker Oak: photo on an old postcard.*

himself discovered gold in 1848. He used his newfound wealth to purchase the 26,000-acre Rancho del Arroyo Chico. In 1860 he laid out the town of Chico. In 1887 he gave 80 acres to the forerunner of Chico State University. Annie, the daughter of the Superintendent of the US Census, was an advocate for Prohibition and the suffragette movement.

The park is a long, narrow tract that starts downtown, not far from the Bidwell Mansion, and extends over five miles into wilderness. The area has a rustic, informal quality. There is little lawn as such. Instead, the park brings the wilderness into downtown. The middle portion, where the great oak stood (east of Manzanita Avenue), consists of trails and a one-way drive, all of which run beneath a continuous canopy of trees. Summer temperatures in Chico are typically in the low 100s, so the trees and the dammed “Sycamore pool” are essential amenities. Tree species are predominantly the valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) and native sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*). The understory is mostly grasses, willow, and spice bush (*Calycanthus occidentalis*).

The legacy of the Bidwells—Bidwell Mansion, Bidwell Park, and Chico State University—dominates the town. Incredibly, the property around the house retains features that were depicted in a c. 1877 sketch by Smith and Elliott. Moreover, although the ancient Hooker Oak is gone, other venerable trees dating back to the Bidwell occupancy surround the Victorian mansion. Fronting the port-cochère is a southern magnolia 25–35’ taller than the three-story tower of the house. Likewise gracing the property are a spectacular tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), a South American monkey puzzle (*Araucaria imbricata*), and a Lawson cypress (*Cupressus lawsoniana*). Since 1964 the mansion has been a State Historic Park. To a unique degree, the Bidwells and Chico are one.



*Bidwell Park in Chico. Photos: Chris Pattillo.*

## ***The Hooker Oak at Chico***

John Bidwell led one of the first successful overland parties into California from Ohio in 1841. No one perished en route—a truly amazing feat, due entirely to Bidwell’s firm leadership and strict control of the emigrants. He was a schoolmaster back in Ohio, but in California became a leading member of society and amassed considerable wealth. The great ranch he established at Chico supplied wheat and orchard crops. It was also almost the first commercial olive oil business, as Bidwell, who was very astute in his judgment, had seen the possibility of making olive oil on a commercial scale. Empty bottles with the Bidwell label now fetch a lot of money in certain circles.

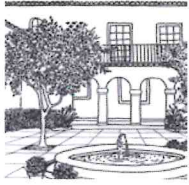
Bidwell entered California state politics, and his advice was sought on many occasions. One of them was during the anti-Chinese rioting in the 1880s, when he counseled restraint. Bidwell and his wife, Annie, were very pious; it was a source of terrible regret that they never had any children.

Because Bidwell had a fine reputation, prominent visitors to the state were taken to Chico. One was Sir Joseph Hooker, son of Sir William Hooker, the first director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Sir Joseph was very accomplished, traveling to the Himalayas to collect rhododendrons and to the Southern Hemisphere, where he prepared the first flora of New Zealand and the Antarctic. He lived to be 94 years old and never slowed down at all until the very end.

The huge historic oak tree was given Hooker’s name because he sat under it when he visited Chico. Who is to say he did not sit under it?

—Judith M. Taylor, MD





## Preservation Matters

### ***The Santa Barbara Main Public Library, Faulkner Gallery, and Five Controversial Trees Receive Landmark Status***

Susan Chamberlin

There was never any question that when the City of Santa Barbara's Historic Landmarks Commission recommended to the City Council that they grant landmark status to the main Public Library and its attached Faulkner Gallery that they would do it. Not clear was the status of the robust, 80-year old lemon-scented gum trees around the Library (*Corymbia*—formerly *Eucalyptus*—*citriodora*). They are significant elements in the downtown skyline, and some could be documented as part of the original landscape for the Faulkner. The HLC had included the trees in their recommendation, but this was opposed by the Library Director, the Parks and Recreation Director who oversees the property, officials with the adjacent Santa Barbara Museum of Art, and the head of the County Arts Commission because granting landmark protection to the trees would interfere with a proposal to remodel the Library entry plaza by flattening it and removing three of the most magnificent trees.

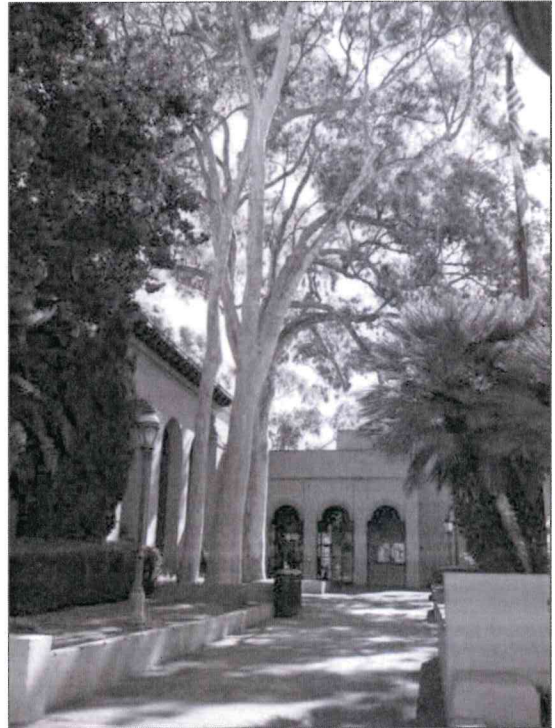
Controversial subtexts emerged during the debate including the way homeless people use the existing space as an impetus for the remodel, possible City liability if eucalyptus branches fell, and the evolution of the proposed plaza design through a process where City stakeholders participated in public workshops. One City Council member noted that the turnout in support of an issue by landscape architects, architects, arborists, artists, architectural historians, and preservationists was almost unprecedented. Also almost unprecedented was a showdown between opposing City Commissions.

I was part of a team organized by landscape architect Bob Cunningham, ASLA, to convince the City Council to landmark the trees along with the buildings. Architect Fred Sweeney persuasively argued the aesthetic value of the trees, illustrated by his own paintings. The evidence was presented: The trees are healthy and not a threat. Eucalyptus trees can be seen on a 1928 conceptual rendering of the Faulkner Gallery (then called the "Art Wing" of the Library) by architects Myron Hunt and H.C. Chambers, and trees were shown newly planted in photographs dated 1931 shortly after the Gallery was completed.

The landscape for the Library was attributed to landscape architect and longtime City Parks Commissioner Ralph T. Stevens in his 1958 obituary, but a drawing could not be found. (There is no archive of Stevens' papers.) I did turn up exciting things, but the complete history of the Library and Faulkner Gallery must wait for another time. At the conclusion of the hearing, the City Council voted unanimously to landmark the Library and Faulkner and voted five to two to landmark five of the 13 trees, including the three proposed for removal if the new plaza is built.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Cunningham, who initiated and persevered in the landmark designation for the trees, and correct an error that will forevermore exist in cyberspace: In the August 29, 2012 *HLC Landmark Designation Staff Report* for the property and the trees, it is stated that "... the Hunt and Chambers landscape plan did not specify the *Corymbia* (*Eucalyptus*) *citriodora* trees." However, there is no landscape plan by Hunt and Chambers; a "Plot Plan" they produced shows only the reflecting pools (no longer extant) and their underground drain lines; there is not a stitch of planting on it.

*Susan Chamberlin, a founding member (in 1995) of the California Garden & Landscape History Society, is a landscape historian with an MA in architectural history and a landscape architect's license. She has lectured, written, and consulted on landscape history. She lives in Santa Barbara.*



*Three *Corymbia citriodora* trees (lemon-scented gums) recently received landmark status, along with Santa Barbara's Main Public Library and Faulkner Gallery in October 2012, making it more difficult to remove the trees should a plan to remodel the entry plaza ever go forward. Photo: Susan Chamberlin, 2012.*



# The Afterlife of Trees

Kelly Comras

Do trees have an afterlife?  
Trees linger in memory, of course:  
Whispering leaves, dappled shade, gnarled trunk  
picturesque, and perfect.

And if they were among the beloved trees that came crashing down  
in the late 2011 windstorm at the Los Angeles County Arboretum,  
they linger as treasured objects.

We can sit in the embrace  
of Charles Dickson's huge carved earpod tree stump,  
and marvel at the lifelines in its grain.

We can run our fingers over the smooth surfaces  
of Alice Martinson's turned persimmon and walnut bowls,  
admiring the map of former growth spurts,  
and the drought and disease revealing its singular history.

We can gaze at the intricate joinery  
of Jim Butler's swamp mahogany music stand,  
still upright as the tree it once was.



*Photo credits—  
Bowls and music stand:  
LA County Arboretum  
and Botanic Garden.  
Tree stump seat:  
Kelly Comras.*

*Downed tree at Arboretum:  
[www.arboretum.org](http://www.arboretum.org)*



## *LA County's Windstorm of 2011 and Its Tree Casualties*

For three days toward the end of 2011, from November 30 to December 2, unprecedented hurricane-force winds ripped through LA County, with their furious blasts especially targeting San Gabriel Valley. Trees along streets and in parks and people's yards were hurtled to the ground or scashed through roofs, or their broken branches snagged and snapped power lines, leaving many of the area's residents powerless and in the dark for as long as a week.

The LA County Arboretum & Botanic Garden in Arcadia was hit hard: at least a thousand trees in its great collection, spanning 127 acres, were damaged, with 235 either totally downed or so badly injured that they had to be removed. The property was closed to the public for three weeks while repair work went on.

During that time the staff began receiving calls from dozens of people—artists and artisans—who hoped to obtain some of the doomed wood and then turn it into beautiful and useful objects, such as pieces of furniture, sculptures, and decorative handcrafts. So the Arboretum agreed to donate its dead trees, and secured permission for doing this from the Board of Supervisors since the trees, after all, were County property. Meanwhile, each tree—there were 46 different species altogether, with some trees very large and old or quite rare—had to be identified, along with its suitability of its wood for particular future uses. Eventually 130 artists and craftspeople received gifts of wood. All of them participated in a fundraising auction held at the Arboretum exactly a year later, and a portion of the proceeds was given to the Tree Fund for purchasing replacement trees.

Arboreta, botanic gardens, arborists, and tree services (including municipal ones) are increasingly approached by woodworking groups, craftspeople, and sculptors, who ask them to save tree trunks and large limbs from landfills, then let them haul away chunks, thus enabling the often valuable wood to be given a satisfying and perhaps immortal "new life."



# John Fowles' *The Tree*

Paula Panich

John Fowles, the great English novelist, published, in 1979, a complicated essay called "The Tree." It was reissued in 2010, in this country anyway, with an introduction by Barry Lopez. I will refer to it as *The Tree*, as it is a pretty little book.

If you don't recall the novels of John Fowles, you will surely recall the movie made from one of them—*The French Lieutenant's Woman*. Meryl Streep and Jeremy Irons.

The essay that forms this book is the kind that few readers tackle anymore: It is discursive, multilayered, redolent with subtext, and the language exquisite.

The pretext of the Fowles essay is a contrasting of the kinds of trees favored by the author's father, and those of the author himself. The father cosseted, debranched, pruned, forced, crammed in, espaliered and otherwise controlled his fruit trees, and produced wonderful fruit. The grown son favored an "... unkempt, unmanaged, and unmanageable garden." And it follows naturally that the son contrasts his own life with that of the father. "What he abhorred, I adored," writes the grown man.

That's the nut of it, and one might stop here.

But that would be a mistake.

There's the subtext, the kernel, of this astonishing work, and the reader swims in its salty translucence according to her (or his) awareness of life. I think we are like fish. How would a fish begin to describe the sea? You can begin to see the challenge.

Before we know it, halfway through this essay we are paddling in a vast sea ourselves of science, art, and the natural world. The ending of the essay is a virtuoso set piece about visiting a storied, ancient wood. Fowles makes the point, early on:

Telling people why, how and when they ought to feel this or that—whether it be with regard to the enjoyment of nature, of food, of sex, or anything else—may, undoubtedly sometimes does, have a useful function in dispelling various kinds of socially harmful ignorance. But what this instruction cannot give is this deepest benefit of any art, be it of making, or of knowing, or of experiencing: which is self expression and self discovery.

I realize I am guilty of this just by framing my own thoughts about this book.

But I can tell you I've spent good bits of time in the woods in the last seven years and thought I'd write a book about it. I took a huge sheet of paper and wrote the chapter headings. Notes and research piled up. I gave the book a title: *First There Was a Mountain*. The title, written on a three-by-five card, was pinned to the window wall above my desk, in a tiny cabin on a mountain surrounded by woods bounded by a musical creek. Dust gathered on that card. Meanwhile, I walked in those woods, drank in those woods, inhaled those woods.

Not everything can be expressed. It's a big mistake, Fowles tells us, to think it can. Amen.

## About Trees ... From our Bookshelves

When we—your editor, editorial board, and president—thought about trees, we also, given our combined interests, thought about books. Here are a selected few from our bookshelves: some rare (and found only in specialized libraries), some readily available online (try [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com)) or in fast-disappearing bookshops.

### Recent Titles:

Robert Pogue Harrison. *Forests: The Shadow of Civilization* (1992).

William Bryant Logan. *Oak: The Frame of Civilization* (2005).

Henry W. Lawrence. *City Trees: A Historical Geography from the Renaissance through the Nineteenth Century* (2006).

Thomas Pakenham. *Meetings With Remarkable Trees* (1998); *Remarkable Trees of the World* (2003).

Bruce M. Pavlick, Pamela Muick, and Sharon Johnson. *Oaks of California* (1993).

Donald Culross Peattie, illus. by Paul Landacre. *A Natural History of Western Trees* (1991; paperback reprint of 1953 edition).

Richard Preston. *Wild Trees* (2008).

Françoise Renaud. *The Tree in Photographs* (2010).

Matt Ritter. *A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us* (2011).

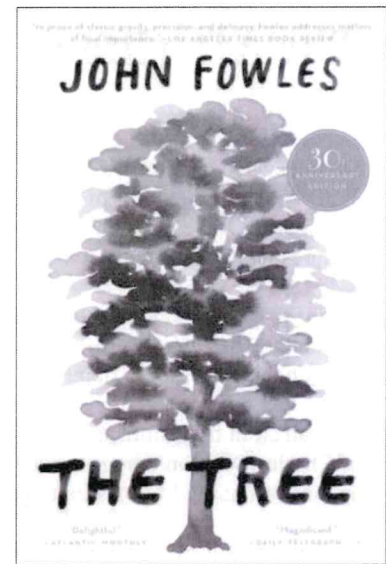
Eric Rutkow. *American Canopy: Trees, Forests, and the Making of a Nation* (2012).

Colin Tudge. *The Tree: The Natural History of What Trees Are, How They Live, and Why They Matter* (2005).

### Antiquarian Titles:

Charles Gibbs Adams. *The Treasure Trees of California* (1931).

Ralph D. Cornell, illus. by author. *Conspicuous California Plants, with Notes on Their Garden Uses* (1938; other editions available, including a 2012 hardcover illus. by Elizabeth Lewis).





## Book Review

*American Canopy: Trees, Forests, and the Making of a Nation.*

Eric Rutkow. (New York: Scribner, 2012). 406 pp. Hardcover, \$29.95.

In this ambitious book, the author (a PhD candidate in American history at Yale as well as an environmental lawyer) undertook writing a comprehensive history of forests in the great span of coast-to-coast land that eventually became the United States. When inhabited only by native Americans, probably almost one billion acres—close to half of the total acreage within the contiguous 48 states—were covered with densely growing trees of many species. Then the tree-cutting rampage began.

Since forests and wood were scarce in England after centuries of overuse, colonists settling along the Atlantic Coast in the early 17th century were astounded by huge stands of trees around their initially tenuous settlements. The limitless timber took on innumerable uses, providing wood for building houses, barns, churches, wagons, fences, and other structures; for making furniture and cabinetry; for crucial uses in heating, cooking, ceramics, and metallurgy. The ready availability of special types of wood (such as very tall, straight, and strong trunks for masts) started New England's first notable industry, the making of sailing ships, leading then to many other commercial ventures.

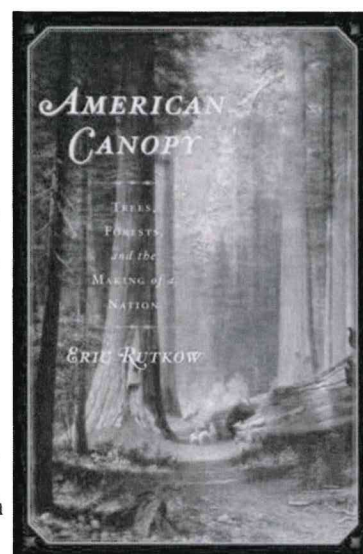
After the Industrial Revolution's arrival, great quantities of firewood were consumed in propelling steam-driven machinery in the different kinds of mills, and in the new transportation means—steamboats and locomotives. Wood was converted into charcoal to furnish the high heat needed in iron foundries, whereas initially coal was mostly ignored. Wood supplied early railways with passenger and cargo cars, rail ties, bridges, depots. Tall and sturdy trunks became telegraph poles holding up wires that quickly transmitted messages across vast distances. By the mid-19th century, the cellulose in wood, converted into pulp, allowed the manufacture of paper far cheaper than that made from cloth rags—thereby greatly expanding the printing and distribution of newspapers and books that informed and educated the democracy's public.

As settlers moved ever westward, and southward toward the Gulf of Mexico, seemingly limitless forests were profligately depleted of pines, hemlocks, spruce, firs, and other useful trees, with unwanted remnants left to rot. The heavy consumption ignored any need for replacement. After New England's forests were exhausted, shrewd and ambitious timber "barons"—most notably Frederick Weyerhaeuser—acquired gigantic tracts of land in the Great Lakes region, then expanded beyond. Jumping over the almost treeless Great Plains, they grabbed great holdings in the Pacific Northwest, the final and richest source of forest trees. In the early decades of the 20th century, timber harvesters and sawmill workers in the Northwest and the South began protests against long hours, low wages, and dangerous and unhealthful working conditions, bringing on unionizing efforts and savage conflicts. By then, too, forest conservation programs were making some headway.

The book gives considerable attention to significant efforts, begun in the mid-19th century, to awaken nationwide awareness of the need to preserve, protect, and replant forested areas. George Perkins Marsh's influential *Man and Nature* (1862) first sounded the call for tree conservation. Inevitably, conflicts arose between the new phalanx of tree protectors and the tree-consuming industries whose activities continuously damaged watersheds through land erosion and water runoff while making landscapes—and communities located within or near them—highly vulnerable to wildfires. At its lowest point, the total of the forest areas declined to about 600 million acres. (It has now grown back to an estimated 750,000.)

Rutkow tells of the admirable forest-saving and -renewing efforts of both Presidents Roosevelt. During his years in office Theodore protected forests by founding many national parks, forests, and monuments. Franklin created the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps. During the CCC's nine years of existence it gave forest-based jobs to 2.5 million previously unemployed young men, who then planted some 3 billion trees, built campsites, and cleared or created 100,000 trails. FDR also launched the windbreak-planting program in farm and ranch lands, and the long, wide stands of trees helped prevent further erosion and dust storms during the disastrous drought years of the '30s.

Acknowledged here are many individuals and organizations, along with federal and state agencies, that made great efforts to protect and replant trees and to regulate the lumber industry's incursions in publicly owned forestlands. Technological advances, initiated by the federally funded Forest Products Laboratory, were encouraged, so that eventually all parts of harvested trees could be used, to eliminate waste. Numerous notable tree-connected men are profiled (but no women!). Most had an early interest in trees, usually resulting in diverse careers. Among them: early horticulturist John Bartram (in 18th-century Pennsylvania), "Johnny Appleseed" Chapman, Henry David Thoreau, Frederick Law Olmsted, John Muir, plant explorer David Fairchild, forester Gifford Pinchot (who learned early from new European practices), the Levitt brothers (who created from forest products post-WWII Levittowns), and ecologist Aldo Leopold. Rutkow also details the tree-loving passion in two "founding fathers"—Washington and Jefferson. Intriguing tales are told, as of the origin in 1872 of Arbor Day in Wisconsin, which eventually went nationwide. J. Sterling Morton's organizing spirit evolved into the now even more widely celebrated Earth Day, which gives attention to environmental and ecological concerns—local, national, and planetary—and encourages people everywhere to plant trees to bolster the "urban forests" in their own communities.





The narrative is mostly chronological in its coverage, in 10 chapters, of four full centuries of forest-consuming time. It becomes more topical when dealing with different facets of organizing themes chosen for particular chapters, such as “Trees as Good Soldiers and Citizens”—when forests provided wood (some very special kinds) needed for combat on land, sea, and in the air, and required military-style recruiting and training of workers. In “Postwar Prosperity,” the subhead section “A Nation of Vagabonds” describes Henry Ford’s successful in-person promotion of recreational “autocamping,” which by the early 1920s annually lured some 6 million drivers into forested areas with campsites. “Under Attack” introduces the specter of deadly, rapidly communicable diseases that afflict trees and can wipe out entire forests, orchards, and ornamental trees. The Plant Quarantine Act of 1912 began imposing stringent inspections of imported plants and plant products to prevent entry of infectious microbes and larger organisms, such as insects, that carry them. All trees in Japan’s first shipment of flowering cherry trees to Washington DC had to be destroyed. Rutkow tells the tragic tales, in both economic and aesthetic terms, of the American chestnut blight that during the early 20th century rapidly eliminated this much-loved majestic, multipurpose tree; then came of the widespread demise of the stately American elm (the historically symbolic “Liberty Tree”), in a beetle-transmitted fungus. Lethal tree plagues have often occurred since then, usually originating from foreign sources. (Threatened now is California’s citrus industry, which began in the 1870s with the navel orange’s arrival—told in Chapter 6’s “New Frontiers.”)

Rutkow’s book considers two of California’s three record-holding tree species. Methusaleh, the bristlecone pine in the White Mountains, is close to 5,000 years old—though not as old as Nevada’s Prometheus had been, and the Introduction tells how it was stupidly cut down in 1964 after a tree-ring extracting device got stuck in its gnarled trunk. The *Sequoia gigantea* stands in the Sierra Nevada are famed as the world’s biggest single trees. Oddly, though, this book barely mentions the planet’s tallest living trees (with one said to be 380 feet high): the *Sequoia sempervirens*. The wholesale felling of entire coastal redwood forests during the last half of the 19th century and well into the 20th is a grim story that surely belongs here. But it’s included in the larger coverage of the rape of fir, spruce, and pine forests in the Pacific Northwest, which over time have become better managed. Rutkow also acknowledges the conservationists’ handy new weapon used to preserve old-growth forests: the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as when agitating to protect the native habitat of the elusive spotted owl, thereby enraging lumbermen.

The author often stresses the importance of good forest management: conserving trees in forests and of continuously planting the right ones in suitable places, including our cities’ “urban forests.” Trees should matter to everyone, not just to ardent environmental activists. Human respiration needs the balanced exchange occurring as plants all around us—trees especially—use photosynthesis to supply their growth needs for carbon, thereby converting into oxygen all that gaseous carbon dioxide that we and animals generate, but is also constantly produced in many other ways, such as the burning of wood (which is mostly carbon). We are urged to retain and reestablish large masses of tree canopies in forests and jungles throughout the planet, to help mitigate, albeit belatedly, the disastrously inevitable climate change due to the “greenhouse effect” in global warming. The continuously mounting presence of CO<sub>2</sub> is primarily caused, of course, by several centuries of gross use of fossil fuels, especially in using oil and gasoline to power many kinds of machinery—often done wastefully to more rapidly deplete finite supplies. Ironically, all coal and much of petroleum actually are derived from the decayed remains of ancient trees and other plants confined for millennia while buried deeply underground and under great pressure.

*American Canopy* provides a fact-filled coverage of an important subject not often considered in a wide historical angle, along with detailed biographical and sociological information. It’s apparently intended for the general reader, not for tree experts and scholars, though some may find in it interesting facts and stories for possible future use. Still, the book scarcely makes for light reading. Its dense text of over 150,000 words is documented with many unobtrusive endnotes and has an impressive bibliography. The chapter openings are decorated with attractive botanical artwork depicting tree leaves, flowers, fruits, and seed pods. Regrettably, despite the many intriguing subjects undertaken here, only a few narrowly selected photographs and other illustrations are presented, on eight pages. There could have been more.

People who already have *American Canopy*, or will borrow or acquire it (available too as an e-book), if delaying the reading, could at least go to page 345, where Rutkow in an Epilogue summarizes the intent and scope of his book. His near final words have an emotional tone mostly absent in the great collection of factual material and statistics in the main text. Toward the end of a literary sermon the author offers this encouragement to commune directly with our arboreal neighbors:

As we rush headlong into the twenty-first century, the physicality of trees seems more vital than ever. The modern workplace and home are becoming increasingly antiseptic. Americans now spend their days staring into computer screens that receive information as if by magic. Daily life seems alarmingly virtual. Trees provide the antidote. The smell of pine needles, the crunch of autumn leaves, the roughness of bark are all reminders that we are a part of nature. Tree hugging, in its most literal sense, offers a reconnection with the physical world, the world of our forefathers. The forests and their trees are a sanctuary for the spirit. To enter them is to seek renewal.

—Barbara Marinacci



Slashings left after logging operations at a Minnesota camp—typical of forestry wastage before efforts were made to use all parts of harvested trees. Photo: Library of Congress.





## Postings

Virginia Hayes, Curator of the Living Collection at Ganna Walska Lotusland, and Susan Chamberlin, landscape historian and CGLHS founding member, will give a presentation entitled *Santa Barbara's Extraordinary Cultural Landscape: People, Plants, Parks and Gardens*, on May 9 at 7 p.m. in the Faulkner Gallery, to kick off National Public Gardens Day in Santa Barbara. Garden tours and other activities are scheduled throughout May. See <http://sbpublicgardens.org>.

### Changes to Membership Dues—Effective July 1, 2013

The Board voted at our January 26, 2013 meeting to raise the dues to bring revenues closer to the cost of producing *Eden*. To simplify the process the Board decided to put all memberships on a calendar year basis, with membership renewals due on July 1. This will relieve our treasurer from the task of billing renewals quarterly. In addition, the Board decided to create a new membership category for students.

The revised membership categories are:

Individual: \$40

Family: \$60 (formerly "Household" (one issue of *Eden* mailed; two people attend events at the member rate)

Non-profit: \$50 (an organizations that supports the mission of CGLHS)

Sustaining: \$100 and above

Student: \$20

All members will be billed in July for the year July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014. During this transition, dues will be prorated for members currently scheduled to renew in the fall, winter, or spring quarters.

### Meet Virginia Kean, *Eden's* New Editor

Virginia Kean knows **California**. She acted as managing editor of *California's Rose Heritage: Journal of the Heritage Rose Foundation 2005 Conference of the Heritage Rose Foundation 2005 Conference*.

Virginia Kean knows **gardens**. When we spoke in early February, she was heading out, clippers in hand, to prune a friend's roses.

Virginia Kean knows **landscape**. Since 2009, she has specialized in work as a senior editor of multidisciplinary environmental impact reports and proposals for a broad range of environmentally sensitive projects, including the California High-Speed Train and Louisiana Coastal Restoration.

Kean lives in Redwood City, California, but her lifelong love affair with plants and landscape began in rural Virginia, where she walked to school through a forest. It flourished in a Southern California childhood marked by the scent of orange groves and summer treks to the ocean through the rolling hills of the Irvine Ranch.

Kean studied at the University of California, Berkeley, and received a BA in Design (Phi Beta Kappa). After earning an MA in Asian Studies from Berkeley, she became a studio potter in Palo Alto. When the studio closed, she moved on to professional writing, and now has 23 years of expertise in developing journals, magazines, business publications, and annual reports for corporations and nonprofits.

In 2005, *Eden's* new editor co-founded *Rosa Mundi*, the journal of the Heritage Rose Foundation (HRF), which is dedicated to preserving the world's roses. For six years she served as editor-in-chief, working with an editorial team of rose experts. She recruited and worked closely with authors, ranging from garden designers and nurserymen to breeders and scholars in Asia, Australia, Europe, New Zealand, and the United States. Among her articles for *Rosa Mundi* are "On a Rose Trek in China" and "A Thorn for Beauty: J. Horace McFarland."

Virginia was also the editor of *Mystery Roses Around the World*, published by the HRF in 2011. For the Charleston Horticultural Society, she edited and produced *Noisette Roses: Nineteenth-Century Charleston's Gift to the World*.

In her own garden Kean grows many old tea and species roses, Japanese maples, camellias, and cymbidiums. When she's not out gardening and deadheading, with two Scottish terriers and several cats as company, she leads tours at Tor House, the stone house and tower built by the 20th-century poet Robinson Jeffers in Carmel, California.

Her current reading: *Rosemary Verey: The Life and Lessons of a Legendary Gardener*, by Barbara Paul Robinson.

She recommends: *Beatrix Potter: A Life in Nature* by Linda Lear; *On an Irish Island*, by Robert Kanigel.

She's working on: An article on botanical gardens and public parks in China.

Her organization memberships: Western Horticultural Society (board member), San Francisco Peninsula Camellia Society, Historic Roses Group, Filoli, Royal Oak Foundation.

—Thea Gurns / Chair, *Eden* Editor Search Committee

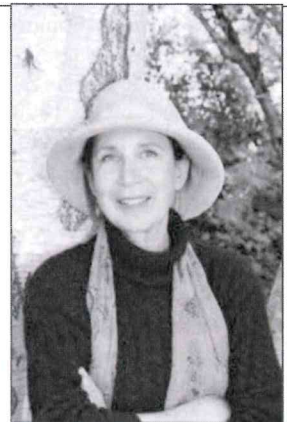


Photo credit TK.



## President's Message

The CGLHS board meets twice a year, but we make the most of these meetings by spending the weekends not only on CGLHS business, but also pleasurably—in exploring the environment around us. Nancy Carter made the arrangements for January 26–27; we spent Saturday on the beautiful campus of the University of San Diego, where Nancy is a professor in the law school. On Saturday evening spouses, along with former board members Thea Gurns and John Blocker, joined us for a home-cooked meal in Nancy's charming bungalow-style home. On Sunday morning local area members accompanied us on a tour of Torrey Pines State Reserve.

The board unanimously approved the appointment of Virginia Kean as our next *Eden* editor. Former CGLHS president and editor search committee chair Thea Gurns introduces her in the brief profile on the opposite page.

We discussed future events. Sarah Raube is planning a fall event in and around San Francisco, and we hope to hold our 2014 conference in Santa Barbara. Thea Gurns is now at work on a 2015 conference in San Diego's Balboa Park, to celebrate the centennial of the 2015 Panama–California Exposition.

For a number of years the CGLHS basic membership of \$30 hasn't covered the rising costs of producing *Eden*. We make up the difference with donations and fundraising through events. Starting with the next issue of *Eden* we will, for the first time, contract out its production. We will be raising dues to help balance the budget. We have added a new category for students. (See the opposite page.)

### An Invitation to All CGLHS Members

Please join our new board member, Carolyn Bennett, for a private tour of the exhibit she originated, "When They Were Wild: Recapturing California's Wildflower Heritage," at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens on May 31st.

What began as a simple idea seven years ago to showcase the fascinating collections of original art documenting our native plants beginning in the late 19th century has blossomed into this major exhibit at the Huntington and related exhibits elsewhere. Through the generous support of the Huntington, the Theodore Payne Foundation, and the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Carolyn's idea has become a fantastic exhibition. It contains over 300 items, which include drawings, paintings, herbarium specimens, photographs, and other ephemera dating from the 1800s and onward. This will be the first time some of these paintings and other objects have been shown in public; now, thanks to the exhibition, all have been digitally preserved for future research and preservation. The exhibit tells the story of our rich and diverse flora and the allure it held for scientists and artists alike. It's fascinating to think of how this documentation led from flower fields to our own gardens.

The exhibition will be open early to us at 10:30am. Admission will be free. Space will be limited, so please RSVP to [membership@cglhs.org](mailto:membership@cglhs.org) by May 6.

Finally, I am as reluctant to say goodbye to Barbara Marinacci, editor of *Eden* since 2010, as I am eager to welcome Virginia Kean as our new editor. In recognition of Barbara's outstanding work, the board has named her as an Honorary Life Member. I asked Kelly Comras to summarize Barbara's contribution to CGLHS and to *Eden*. Below is her reply.

—Judy M. Horton / [president@cglhs.org](mailto:president@cglhs.org)

More than three years ago I was charged with the urgent task of finding a replacement for *Eden*'s longstanding editor, Marlea Graham. Since Marlea had been not only an excellent editor and a full-time production staff of one for *Eden*, I felt dubious about the success of my quest. Lo and behold, I soon crossed paths with Barbara Marinacci, a talented, experienced book author and professional editor. Though she has written about many diverse subjects, she hadn't a background in historic landscapes. But she at least was a lifelong gardener. And with boundless enthusiasm, good cheer, optimism, and her professional research skills, she was willing to give *Eden* a try.

Our journey turned out to be a fruitful one for *Eden* and for the rest of the members of the editorial board (Ann Scheid, Paula Panich, Phoebe Cutler), who banded together to help make Barbara's efforts a success. With Marlea's patient and generous assistance, Barbara learned the ropes quickly and added her own skills and viewpoint to further polish *Eden*. During Barbara's tenure she found and cultivated a new cadre of writers, expanded on *Eden*'s breadth of topics, and wrote some fine articles of her own. Her love of the work, and the diligence she brought to it, were evident in issues that were brimming over with excellence and quality, and sometimes up to 32 pages in length! Barbara also learned how to produce *Eden* and then how to prepare the issue for sending out in an online version—a daunting task for this digital-publication neophyte, but she took on with her usual can-do approach to life.

Most important to me and the rest of the editorial board are the friendships and respect that have come out of this journey. There was a (short) time when we were not at all sure we would be able to continue publishing *Eden*. This was something none of us was prepared to live with, so we rolled up our sleeves, went to work, and found that, as is often the case, we got as much or more out of it than we put in. Speaking for our entire editorial board, I can safely say that we have grown to love Barbara and consider her a friend to keep for life. Our journey with her is a journey we will want to remember.

—Kelly Comras / Chair, Editorial Board of *Eden*



Clara Mason Fox (1873–1959).  
Bush Poppy (*Dendromecon rigidai*).  
Silverado Canyon, 1899. Pencil and  
tempera on paper. Collection of  
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

## EDEN

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Tel: 310-459-0190. E-mail: [eden@cglhs.org](mailto:eden@cglhs.org)

### *Eden*: Call for Content

*Eden* solicits your submissions of scholarly papers, short articles, book reviews, information about coming events, news about members' activities and honors, and interesting archives or websites you have discovered. In short, send us anything pertaining to California's landscape history that may be of interest to CGLHS members. Also, more regional correspondents reporting on local landscape preservation concerns, efforts, and accomplishments will be welcomed, along with other relevant issues.

For book reviews, notices of interesting magazine articles, and museum exhibits, please write to Associate Editor Margaretta J. Darnall, 1154 Sunnyhills Road, Oakland, CA 94610.

All other submissions should be sent to *Eden* editor Barbara Marinacci (see above contact information). Deadlines for submissions are the first days of January, April, July, and October.

### *EDEN Staff*

Editor ..... Barbara Marinacci  
Editorial Board: ..... Kelly Comras, Phoebe Cutler, Paula Panich, Ann Scheid  
Book Review Editor ..... Margaretta J. Darnall  
Consultant (*Eden* Editrix Emerita) ..... Marlea Graham  
Regional Correspondents..... Phoebe Cutler (S.F. Bay Area), Kathryn Lyon (Central Coast), Vonn Marie May (San Diego Area)

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Return this form along with your check made payable to CGLHS to:

Christy O'Hara / CGLHS Treasurer / 11730 San Marcos Road / Atascadero, CA 93422

Please send address and other changes or questions to [treasurer@cglhs.org](mailto:treasurer@cglhs.org).

As a matter of policy, CGLHS does not share its membership lists with other organizations, and that policy extends to e-mail addresses as well.

**California Garden and Landscape History Society (CGLHS) is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership organization devoted to: celebrating the beauty and diversity of California's historic gardens and landscapes; promoting wider knowledge, preservation, and restoration of California's historic gardens and landscapes; organizing study visits to historic gardens and landscapes as well as to relevant archives and libraries; and offering opportunities for a lively interchange among members at meetings, garden visits, and other events.**

**CGLHS was founded in 1995.**

**The Society organizes annual conferences and publishes *Eden*, a quarterly journal.**

### *Locations & Years of CGLHS's Conferences:*

1995 – Santa Cruz (founding)  
1996 – Santa Barbara (Spring)  
          San Diego (Fall)  
1997 – UC Berkeley (Spring)  
          Huntington Gardens, San Marino (Fall)  
1998 – Sacramento  
1999 – Long Beach (Rancho Los Alamitos)  
2000 – Monterey  
2001 – Sonoma County (city of Sonoma)  
2002 – San Juan Capistrano  
2003 – San Francisco Peninsula (Stanford University)  
2004 – Riverside  
2005 – Napa Valley (10th anniversary)  
2006 – Westside of Silicon Valley (Saratoga)  
2007 – Los Angeles (for Japanese-style gardens)  
2008 – Lone Pine and Owens Valley  
2009 – UC Berkeley (SF Bay Area)  
2010 – Santa Cruz County (15th anniversary)  
2011 – San Luis Obispo County

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and William A. Grant



# California Garden & Landscape History Society

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*A floss silk tree (Ceiba speciosa). Photo: Matt Ritter.*

**Takeda, Michi**

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**From:** John Favre [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2025 7:52 PM  
**To:** commentsDC  
**Subject:** Tree ordinance

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Greetings:

The canopy list has apparently not been reviewed recently in light of weather changes and Fire danger. Could risky trees, such as eucalyptus and palms, be evaluated for fire risk and those in the most dangerous sites—like the Arroyo Seco—be removed and replaced with safer trees?

John Favre

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPad



## Takeda, Michi

---

**From:** Judy Ohora [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2025 8:33 AM  
**To:** Takeda, Michi  
**Cc:** commentsDC  
**Subject:** Support forTree ordinance revisions

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I want to express my support for the tree ordinance revisions being presented on May 27. The benefit of trees for communities/ecologies is well-documented. The City should be proactive in finding ways to save trees, not remove them.  
from my iPad

DATE: May 26, 2025

TO: Members of the Design Commission and City Staff

FROM: The Ad Hoc Urban Forestry Task Force

RE: Proposed Revisions to Pasadena Municipal Code Chapter 8.52, City Trees and Tree Protection Ordinance, with respect to Public Trees

In late 2024, an ad hoc Urban Forestry Task Force (UFTF) was established by and with the continued support of City Councilmember Rick Cole. It consists of District 2 commissioners from each of the City's Planning, Design, Environmental Advisory, Historic Preservation, Parks & Recreation commissions, as well as its representative on the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee, the District 2 Field Representative and other engaged community leaders concerned about the City's care and protection of its public trees. This memo contains the UFTF recommendations for changes to the City Trees and Tree Protection Ordinance, PMC Chapter 8.52 (attached) to meet Pasadena's goals for a resilient and sustainable urban forest to combat climate change, ensure tree equity citywide, and strengthen protection of public trees as a beneficial and important community asset that supports both economic vitality and our quality of life. The regulation of private trees was not found to be in question and is not addressed herein.

## **BACKGROUND**

The UFTF convened initially to support the community's concern about the City's proposed removal of a mature Coast Live Oak tree in McDonald Park, which has longtime served as a backdrop for community events. Subsequent to a neighborhood association inquiry about the tree's low-hanging branches and apparent leaning, and instead of taking measures to protect, maintain, or physically support the otherwise robust tree, the City posted a Notice of Removal based on "imminent danger" warranting removal. The protest that followed gained national and local media attention. Eight certified arborists took an interest in the tree, none agreeing it was an imminent risk. The neighborhood subsequently engaged professional Master arborists to assess whether or not the tree was indeed of imminent threat to public safety and brought the City's treatment of its trees to further light. Eventually, the City's own contract arborist, Dudek, at the City's costly request assessed the tree, determined it was in good health, and the item was heard before the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee, which concurred. Despite the earlier warning of imminent failure, the McDonald Park Oak Tree withstood the wind event of January 7, 2025, with speeds of greater than 100 mph that fanned the disastrous Eaton Canyon fire, proof of its stability and good health, and was spared from City chain saws 'at this time.'

Evidence presented to UFAC and the community made clear that despite its best efforts and genuine concern for our public trees, the City is not using current best practices to assess the health of our urban forest nor to protect and maintain public trees. City Staff admitted it had overwatered the McDonald Park tree--named 'Old Sylvana' at a community ceremony earlier this year--during drought conditions, an environmentally wasteful practice that also contributed to endangering the survival of park trees.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the 'Old Sylvana' incident, the UFTF attended UFAC meetings, reviewed the City's tree protection policies and practices, and researched those in surrounding jurisdictions for comparison. Those of the Cities of Claremont, Sierra Madre, and Beverly Hills (prepared by the City's own consultant, Dudek) became models for strengthening Pasadena's Trees and Tree Protection Ordinance. With respect to public trees, the following issues were identified and are discussed further on with recommended changes to the Ordinance where needed:

- Strengthen the City's goals of climate resilience through development of a robust urban forest through current professional, certified arborist best practices, tree removal processes and procedures, and community oversight;
- Ensure tree equity citywide;
- Include the role, strengthen the composition, and increase the authority of the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC)—of which the Ordinance is silent--especially with respect to public tree removal;
- Define the responsibilities of abutting residents to care for and cultivate public trees adjacent to their properties and the City's need to educate them on best management practices; and
- Develop an Urban Forestry Management Plan that relies on current tree management best practices and policies to reduce climate change, ensure fire resistance and safety, and grow and protect Pasadena's urban forest for years to come.

### **Resilience through Urban Forestry Management, Community Oversight, and Best Arborist Practices**

Each year the City cuts down over 400 public trees. As in the case of "Old Sylvana," the City's first line response to citizen inquiry or concern about public trees—and without mitigation options—is tree removal. This is a costly and environmentally disastrous practice not subject to community oversight. Prior to cutting down a public tree, City arborists evaluate the tree, complete a "Tree Hazard Evaluation Form" and add it to the monthly removal list if its hazard score is deemed too high, which is then approved by the City Manager. The Hazard Form outlines the reason for removal but no one aside from City Staff reviews these forms. The current form used lacks specificity and according to outside professional arborists, the City is also misusing it.

The benefits from trees and a healthy urban forest increase with the size and age of trees. However, because the City does not use and has not been trained to administer the latest assessment form recommended by professional, certified arborists, mature trees are actually penalized in City assessments. Thus, they are more likely to be removed even if failure is not imminent, when they should, instead, be protected and nurtured to the fullest extent possible as there is no equivalent replacement.

In conducting its removal reports, the City should be using the ISA Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, which it does not. This is the form Dudek, the consulting third party arborist used in the contracted assessment. This is the link to the form recommended by the profession:

Except in cases of extreme and imminent danger of failure (as defined by ISA standards: "Failure has started or is most likely to occur in the near future, even if there is no significant wind or increased load. This is an infrequent occurrence for a risk assessor to encounter."), community oversight of public tree removal, which is non-existent, is also needed. UFAC, a standing committee of the Design Commission, is the appropriate body to review City reports and recommend removal or retention and mitigation as these are not brought to the Commission or any other citizen advisory body. Currently, concerned citizens who contact the Citizen Service Center to inquire further about a tree noticed for removal are not directed to the Forestry Department or other responsible City Staff. The process for contacting the City or appealing a removal is absent yet also needed.

Amend the Ordinance to read as follows to recognize the importance to ensure fire safety and combat climate change through best practices that are efficient and effective, and encourage community oversight of our urban forest (suggested text with ~~deletions~~ and additions):

**Section 8.52.015 – Purposes of ordinance.**

B. Safeguard the City's urban forest by providing for the regulation of the protection, planting, maintenance and removal of trees in the city utilizing the current best practices of professional, certified arborists that are efficient and effective, and community oversight.

~~F. Create favorable conditions for the protection~~ Protect designated landmark, native and specimen trees, for the benefit of current and future residents of Pasadena through favorable conditions and best management practices.

G. Maintain and enhance the general health, safety and welfare of the city and its residents by assisting in counteracting air pollution and in minimizing soil erosion and other related environmental damage, ensure fire safety, and combat climate change.

I. Establish procedures and practices for fulfilling the purposes of this city tree and tree protection ordinance, and provide public education about tree maintenance and protection.

**Section 8.52.020 – Definitions**

G. "Imminent." Active failure of the tree has started or is most likely to occur in the near future, even if there is no significant wind or increased load.

**Section 8.52.150 - Notice of public tree removal.**

The city manager shall give at least ~~10 days~~ 30 days written notice to abutting property owners prior to the removal of any public tree. A written appeal may be submitted to the City Manager during that time period per this Section below. No notice shall be required to be given, however, if the public tree has been determined to be ~~imminently hazardous~~ of imminent failure under the standards in Section 8.52.080(G) and according to review utilizing the most current and best practices of certified arborists, with concurrence by a majority of UFAC. Any recommendation for removal shall also contain a written evaluation of mitigation options, including but not limited to pruning, bracing or cabling, mulching, or other treatment.

In the event of a decision under this chapter for the removal of 3 or more public trees in an area, the city manager shall also notify the city council, ~~the design commission~~ UFAC, and any neighborhood organizations located in such area which are known.



A. City or consulting arborists shall be required to utilize the ISA Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, or any newer edition of that form, for all tree evaluations. All arborists shall be trained to utilize the form prior to any assessment.

B. A "Notice of Removal" posted on any public tree for reason of **condition** (tree health) or **non-condition** (circumstances/location) shall remain for thirty (30) days and include the email address, phone number, and name of the appropriate City Staff person to contact and posted on the Public Works webpage. Any aggrieved person may appeal removal of a public tree to the City Manager in writing within thirty (30) days of the date of the Notice. The City Manager or his or her designee shall contact the appellant within fourteen (14) days of the date of the appeal letter with a decision and, if not in favor of the appellant, shall refer the appeal to UFAC for review and decision at its next available meeting. All UFAC decisions may be appealed to the City Council. This appeal process shall be posted on the Public Works, Forestry and UFAC webpages.

### **Tree Equity**

Public trees, especially our robust street trees with extensive canopies, are not dispersed equally throughout Pasadena. As a general trend, lower socio-economic neighborhoods tend to have fewer trees than wealthier ones. Additionally, the number of street trees along commercial corridors citywide, especially in the areas north of the 210 Freeway, is inconsistent and often lower compared to the number of trees and with less cover than in the Central District, South Lake Avenue, and the City's wealthier and more 'tourist' destinations. Ensuring equal access to the benefit of trees through a commitment to tree equity is needed, along with reforestation efforts.

American Forests, a national non-profit, has developed a "Tree Equity Score" that includes the current canopy cover for cities nationwide. The score is determined by collecting local current tree distribution data and comparing it to socio-economic and other demographic information. Statistical models then help identify areas that are particularly lacking in tree cover and are in need of focused reforestation efforts. A 0-to-100-point scoring system is used to understand how tree equity varies across neighborhoods in a municipality. The score indicates whether a neighborhood has the right number of trees for all people to experience the health, economic, and other benefits that trees provide. The link to the Score is at the following website: <https://www.treeequityscore.org/>. Pasadena's Equity Score shows inequity, ranging from a low of 70 to a high of 100 in areas on the west side, neighboring the Arroyo.

Amend the Ordinance as follows to recognize and encourage tree equity:

#### **Section 8.52.015 – Purposes of ordinance.**

J. Ensure tree equity so that all residents experience adequate tree cover and shall have equal access to the benefits that trees provide.

#### **8.52.020 – Definitions.**

CC. "Tree Equity" means ensuring all residents have equal access to the benefits trees provide, including but not limited to shade, reduction of the 'heat island effect,' absorption of pollutants,

cleaner air, environmental aesthetics, and encouraged pedestrian circulation.

### **Authority of the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC)**

The Ordinance is currently silent on the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC), a Design Commission standing committee with its own by-laws. The Ordinance needs to be amended so UFAC's role and authority is transparent and available to the community. Its authority in providing oversight of general management practices in the protection of the City's urban forest, especially with respect to tree removal, also needs clarity. Including at least two (2) UFAC members that are certified arborists would provide further professional background in its rendering of decisions and strengthen its role in community oversight.

Amend the Ordinance to add the following:

#### **Section 8.52.051– Duties of Urban Forestry Advisory Committee.**

Pursuant to section 2.80.135 of the Pasadena Municipal Code, the Design Commission may delegate to the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC), as a standing subcommittee of the Design Commission, the following:

- A. The review, advice, and recommendations with respect to street trees as are specified in Section 2.80.110 (B)(2) and (3), related to streetscapes and city construction, respectively;
- B. The review, advice, and recommendations specified in Section 2.80.110 (B)(11);
- C. For projects sent to the Design Commission for review under Title 17 of this code, the review of landscape design plans, and related permits and tree protection plans for protected trees on public and private property as well as for planting new trees on such property; and
- D. Pursuant to the Design Commission's action on August 9, 2004, UFAC's authority to review, advise, and make recommendations related to the City's Master Street Tree Plan;
- E. UFAC's authority to review, advise and make recommendations related to public tree planting, maintenance, and removal practices, both condition and non-conditioned-based. Except in the case of fully dead trees, UFAC shall review all removal reports for all condition-based removals of a) native tree, b) mature tree (greater than 19" DBH), c) landmark tree, and d) specimen tree as defined by 8.52.020;
- F. UFAC's authority to review and approve or deny written appeals made to the City Manager for tree removals, as well as to decide the appropriate course of action. which may also include requiring an independent arborist assessment or conducting of further testing, such as sonic tomography or soil testing; and
- G. UFAC's duty to educate the public on best management practices related to the care of public trees abutting private property.

#### **Section 8.52.052 – Urban Forestry Advisory Committee Governance.**

In accordance with Ordinance 2.80.135 dated May 9, 2002, which initiated the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC), UFAC's performance of its duties and the exercise of its powers as set forth in Section 2.80.135 of the Pasadena Municipal Code and above, shall be governed by



its by-laws adopted on April 9, 2019, or as further amended by the City Council, and shall include the following: membership on UFAC shall include at least two (2) independent, certified arborists.

### **Private Care of Public Trees**

Private property owners and those in possession or control of real property are allowed to plant public parkways adjacent to their property within certain Municipal Code height and other limitations. With that privilege should be the responsibility to help ensure parkways are maintained in a manner that ensures the health of any planted public tree within them. Public education is needed to assure street trees are watered sufficiently, are not over-watered, or hardscape or other plant materials do not endanger root systems or overall tree health. UFAC should regularly provide information on adequate care to the community and reach out especially to neighborhood organizations for dispersing information.

To increase private protection of public trees and increase education, amend the Ordinance as follows:

#### **Section 8.52.076 – Work on public trees.**

Public Trees. No permits will be issued to any person or entity for pruning or removal of public trees, and all pruning and removal of public trees shall be undertaken by employees or contractors of the city pursuant to Section 8.52.080 unless a written request is made and expressly granted by the City Manager. Any person desiring to initiate special maintenance or removal of a public tree by the city, may make a written request to the city manager and pay the costs of service and replacement at rates established by the city manager and set forth in the tree protection guidelines, should the request be granted. Any such request will be considered based on the provisions of this chapter, established public tree removal criteria, other ongoing public tree work and available resources. Removals shall be reviewed and approved by UFAC.

#### **Section 8.52.078 - Duty of abutting residents to cultivate trees on public property.**

A. It is the duty of all persons owning or having the possession and/or control of real property within the city to properly cultivate, care for and maintain all trees now or hereafter planted or set out within any public street planting areas immediately adjacent to their respective real properties, subject, however, to: (1) the general supervision, direction and control of the City Manager and (2) the right of the city and franchised utility companies to perform any emergency or maintenance work deemed necessary. The city shall, at no cost to adjoining property owners remove, cut, prune or trim any street or public tree which is found to be dangerous to health and safety or for purposes of maintenance to ensure tree health.

B. It is the responsibility of all persons owning or having the possession of abutting real property for street tree maintenance that includes irrigation, keeping the right of way planting area free from weeds, debris or other obstructions inimical to public safety and/or contrary to the street landscaping plan/Master Street Tree Plan, keeping tree trunks and branches free from climbing vines, and otherwise maintaining such areas in a manner favorable to tree health.

C. It is the City's duty, via the City Manager or his or her designee, to ensure that the community has access to the education and advice needed to ensure the species of street trees within the area adjacent to their properties are cared for and maintained in a manner that ensures tree health. Information shall be posted as well on the City's website.

## Urban Forestry Management Going Forward

Like the City of Claremont and other California jurisdictions, on February 8, 2022, the City of Beverly Hills City Council adopted a comprehensive Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP):

<https://www.beverlyhills.org/DocumentCenter/View/5258/City-of-Beverly-Hills-Urban-Forest-Management-Plan-PDF>

The purpose of the UFMP is to manage and grow the City's urban forest as a community asset. The aim is to promote "the sustainability of trees in the City in a way that maximizes their environmental benefits, while maintaining the City's established safety and economic goals...and supports a measurable planning framework that will support the City's urban forest over the next 20 to 30 years." The URMP looks at "the condition of the City's trees, management practices, policies and ordinances, and funding and provides an assessment of whether they are functioning at an optimal level, and provides recommendations where needed for improvement." The Plan also includes a chapter dedicated to assessing the severe fire hazard in the City's hillside areas to ensure "trees are contributing to a fire safe community."

Instead of revising its Master Street Tree Plan, Pasadena should learn from Beverly Hills and others, and develop a comprehensive UFMP to manage and grow a sustainable urban forest. Thus, the Ordinance should be amended as follows:

**Section 8.52.015 – Purposes of ordinance.**

X. Support the development and adoption of an Urban Forest Management Plan to protect and grow Pasadena's urban forest for decades to come.

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In conclusion, the UFTF urges the Design Commission to review the recommendations provided herein, arrive at a consensus on the need to revise the City's Trees and Tree Protection Ordinance, and urge the City Council to amend the Ordinance to strengthen Pasadena's commitment to a healthy and sustainable urban forest.

Ad Hoc Urban Forestry Task Force (UFTF) Members:

Julianna Delgado, PhD, FAICP (Planning and Design Commissions; Past President, BHNA)  
Megheti DerBoghossian (District 2 Field Representative for Councilmember Rick Cole)  
Bernard Halloran, PhD (Urban Forestry Advisory Committee)  
Carol Hunt-Hernandez (Chair, Planning Commission; District 5)  
Barbara Lambrecht, MArch, PhD (District 5)  
Tina Miller (Historic Preservation Commission; Past President and Board Member, BHNA)  
Betsy Mitchell (Parks and Recreation Commission)  
Jessica Richards, MS, MSW (Board Member, BHNA)  
Suzanne York (Environmental Advisory Commission)

**Attachments:**

- Pasadena Municipal Code Chapter 8.52, City Trees and Tree Protection Ordinance
- UFAC By-laws



## **Chapter 8.52 – CITY TREES AND TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE**

### **8.52.010 - Short title.**

This chapter shall be known as the "city trees and tree protection ordinance."

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

### **8.52.015 - Purposes of ordinance.**

Pasadena is graced by the presence of thousands of mature trees that contribute long-term aesthetic, environmental, and economic benefits to the city. Aesthetically, trees offer dimensions in the form of color, shape, texture, scale and variety. Mature trees are often integral components of many historic sites and their presence contributes to the site's cultural and historic significance.

Environmental benefits derived by trees include the filtering of air pollutants; increasing atmospheric oxygen levels; stabilizing soils; reducing heat convection; decreasing wind speed; and reducing the negative effects of solar glare. The biological diversity of wildlife and plant communities is enhanced by the favorable conditions created by trees.

The economic benefits derived from trees include increased property values, and additional revenue generated by businesses, visitors and new residents attracted to the urban forest image of the city. Trees are a major capital asset to the city and like any valuable asset they require appropriate care and protection.

Therefore, it is the purpose of this ordinance to:

- A. Preserve and grow Pasadena's canopy cover by protecting landmark, native and specimen trees on specified areas of private property and expanding the protection of street trees and trees on public property.
- B. Safeguard the City's urban forest by providing for the regulation of the protection, planting, maintenance and removal of trees in the city.
- C. Protect the visual and aesthetic character of the city.
- D. Improve and enhance property values by conserving and adding to the distinctive and unique aesthetic character of the many areas of Pasadena.
- E. Improve the quality of life for residents, visitors and wildlife.
- F. Create favorable conditions for the protection of designated landmark, native and specimen trees, for the benefit of current and future residents of Pasadena.
- G. Maintain and enhance the general health, safety and welfare of the city and its residents by assisting in counteracting air pollution and in minimizing soil erosion and other related environmental damage.
- H. Protect and maintain healthy trees in the land use planning processes as set forth herein.
- I. Establish procedures and practices for fulfilling the purposes of this city tree and tree protection ordinance.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

## 8.52.020 - Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms are defined as follows:

- A. "City" shall mean the City of Pasadena.
- B. "City manager" means the city manager and such representative as he or she may designate in writing.
- C. "Diameter-at-breast-height (DBH)" means the diameter of the tree 4½ feet above ground on the uphill side of the tree. If a tree forks below breast height, it is considered "a multi-trunk." A measuring tape can be used to measure tree trunk circumference and then the circumference divided by 3.14 to determine diameter.
- D. "Established corner yard" means the area between the side property line and the principal structure on a lot.
- E. "Established front yard" means the area between the front property line and the principal structure on a lot.
- F. "Hazard" or "hazardous" means a tree, or part of a tree, that has a high potential for failure and falling on a nearby object because of dead or dying branches, roots or trunk.
- G. "Injure" means any act or omission which substantially affects or seriously jeopardizes the health of a living tree, in the determination of the city manager.
- H. "Landmark tree" means a tree designated as a landmark under Chapter 17.62 of this code as a tree of historic or cultural significance and of importance to the community due to any of the following factors: It is one of the largest or oldest trees of the species located in the city; it has historical significance due to an association with a historic building, site, street, person or event; or it is a defining landmark or significant outstanding feature of a neighborhood.
- I. "Landmark-eligible tree" means a tree which meets the criteria for designation as a landmark tree, as determined by the review authority.
- J. "Located" or "location" of a tree means that place where any portion of the trunk of a tree is found at natural grade.
- K. "Maintain" or "maintenance" means pruning, trimming, spraying, fertilizing, watering, treating for disease or injury or any other similar act which promotes growth, health, beauty and life of trees.
- L. "Master street tree plan" means the comprehensive street tree plan approved by the city council, which lists the official street tree to be planted or replaced for all streets or sections of streets within the city.
- M. "Mature tree" means an otherwise non-protected tree with a diameter-at-breast-height (DBH) of 19 inches or greater.
- N. "Median" or "traffic island" means a raised area within a street not used for vehicular traffic.
- O. "Multi-trunk" means any tree with multiple trunks attributed to a single tree. Each trunk shall be measured at a height of 4½ feet above natural grade, and the combined areas of the trunks shall be used to determine the tree's size for the purposes of this ordinance.
- P. "Native tree" means any tree with a trunk more than 8 inches in diameter at a height of 4 ½ feet above natural grade that is one of the following species: *Quercus agrifolia* (Coast live oak), *Quercus engelmannii* (Engelmann oak), *Quercus chrysolepis* (Canyon oak), *Platanus racemosa* (California sycamore), *Juglans californica* (California walnut), *Quercus berberidifolia* (Scrub oak), *Quercus lobata* (Valley oak), *Umbellularia californica* (California bay), *Populus fremontii* (Cottonwood), *Alnus rhombifolia* (California alder), *Populus trichocarpa* (Black cottonwood), *Salix lasiolepis* (Arroyo willow), and *Aesculus californica* (California buckeye).
- Q. "Official street tree" means an approved species of street tree designated in the master street tree plan.



- R. "Parkway" means an area between the property line and the face of the curb, or an area between the property line and the area where the face of the curb would ordinarily be located.
- S. "Property owner" means the person listed as the owner in fee simple of a lot or parcel with the office of county recorder or lawfully exercising the power of the property owner with respect to said lot or parcel.
- T. "Protected tree" means a native, specimen, landmark, landmark-eligible, mature (except for the trees in RS or RM-12 zones), or public tree.
- U. "Pruning" means the removal of dead, dying, diseased, live interfering, and weak branches according to the most recent standards of the International Society of Arboriculture.
- V. "Public benefit" means a public purpose, service or use which affects residents as a community and not merely as particular individuals.
- W. "Public tree" means a tree located in a place or area under ownership or control of the city including but without limitation streets, parkways, open space, parkland and including city owned property under the operational control of another entity by virtue of a lease, license, operating or other agreement.
- X. "Replacement matrix" means the table of requirements for replanting replacement trees on private property when removing protected tree/s per Finding 6 in Section 8.52.075.
- Y. "Specimen tree" means any tree meeting the criteria established by resolution of the city council by species and size of tree which is thereby presumed to possess distinctive form, size or age, and to be an outstanding specimen of a desirable species and to warrant the protections of this chapter.
- Z. "Street" means any public right-of-way regardless of whether it is described as a street, avenue, road, boulevard, drive, lane, court, place, alley, or by any other such designation.
- AA. "Street tree" means any public tree whose trunk is located primarily within any parkway, public sidewalk, street median, traffic island or other right-of-way under the ownership or control of the city by easement, license, fee title or other permissive grant of use.
- BB. "Tree" means a woody plant that has a single main trunk with clear apical dominance (i.e., one primary stem is significantly larger than the secondary stem/s).

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

(Ord. No. 7184, § 2, 3-15-2010)

#### **8.52.025 - Applicability.**

The provisions of this chapter providing protection for specific trees shall apply as follows, unless excepted by provisions of this chapter.

- A. Native and specimen trees located in the established front yard, required side yard, established corner yard, or required rear yard of all property located in a single-family residential or RM-12 multifamily residential zone, and in all areas of all other zoning districts within the city.
- B. Landmark trees and trees that meet the criteria for designation as a landmark as determined by the review authority.
- C. Public trees located at all places within the city.
- D. Mature trees in all zoning districts except for trees on properties subject to the RS or RM-12 development standards.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

(Ord. No. 7184, § 3, 3-15-2010)

**8.52.030 - City manager responsibilities.**

The city manager shall:

- A. By use of city employees, private contractors or authorized volunteers, plant, maintain and otherwise care for, or, if necessary, remove public trees;
- B. Prepare an annual program for tree planting and tree care in public places of the city;
- C. Recommend to the city council changes or additions to the master street tree plan as needed;
- D. Inspect the planting, maintenance and removal of all public trees;
- E. Develop maintenance standards as they relate to trees in public places;
- F. Make determinations on public tree removal based upon tree reports prepared by certified arborists, other relevant facts, and upon established public tree removal criteria;
- G. Review development and construction plans as they affect mature, landmark, landmark-eligible, native, public and specimen trees;
- H. Act as advisor to the design commission of the city;
- I. Prepare and periodically revise the tree protection guidelines;
- J. Prepare and submit the specimen tree list, and any revisions thereto to the city council for adoption by resolution;
- K. Issue permits and make determinations specified under this chapter;
- L. Maintain a comprehensive inventory of public trees; and
- M. Act as the enforcement official who is designated to issue a compliance order or an administrative citation to enforce this chapter pursuant to Chapter 1.25 or 1.26, respectively, of this code.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

(Ord. No. 7184, § 4, 3-15-2010; Ord. No. 7322, § 2, 5-7-2018)

**8.52.032 - Tree protection guidelines.**

Tree protection guidelines are the standards and specifications for the protection of trees under this chapter. The tree protection guidelines, and any revision thereto, shall be prepared by the city manager. All guidelines and any revisions thereto shall be effective upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the city. All published guidelines shall be filed with the city clerk and will be linked to the official website of the city.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

(Ord. No. 7322, § 3, 5-7-2018)

**8.52.040 - Consultation policy.**

All departments, agencies and personnel of the city shall consult with the city manager prior to engaging in any action which would require the removal of, or which would otherwise substantially affect or seriously jeopardize the health of any existing public tree.



(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

**8.52.050 - Design commission.**

The design commission shall review, advise and make recommendations to the city council relating to the city's tree planting, maintenance and removal practices and proposed amendments to the master street tree plan.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

**8.52.060 - Protection policy.**

It shall be the policy of the city to protect and maintain mature and healthy trees. Special consideration shall be afforded mature, public, landmark, landmark-eligible, native and specimen trees as set forth in this chapter.

- A. Incentives for the Preservation of Mature Trees. When considering an application for any permit or approval that preserves mature trees, a decision may be made through the design review process or other entitlement process to waive development standards or accept alternative solutions to assist in the preservation of these trees. The review authority or director, if there is no other review authority, may modify the development standards or accept alternative solutions to assist in the preservation of protected trees. Modifications may include a reduction to garden requirements, guest parking requirements, location of driveways and building height limits. The review authority may approve the modification of up to two development standards after first finding that:
1. Applicant investigated alternative site designs and building footprints using existing development standards;
  2. Tree/s to be preserved is/are in good health and condition (taking into account species and longevity) as determined by a certified arborist;
  3. Project includes a well integrated and thoughtful design solution that enhances the property and its surroundings;
  4. Project is not injurious to adjacent properties or uses, or detrimental to environmental quality, quality of life, or the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and
  5. Project is consistent with the objectives and policies of the applicable design guidelines and the citywide design principles in the general plan.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

(Ord. No. 7184, § 5, 3-15-2010)

**8.52.065 - Designation of landmark trees.**

Any person or city agency may propose to the historic preservation commission that a tree meets the criteria set forth in Section 8.52.020 and should be designated as a landmark under Chapter 17.62 and, thereby, as a landmark tree under this Chapter 8.52.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

(Ord. No. 7184, § 6, 3-15-2010)

#### **8.52.066 - Designation of native and specimen trees.**

Designation of native, specimen and mature trees. All trees meeting the definition of native, specimen, landmark, landmark-eligible, or mature trees in Section 8.52.020 are automatically subject to the protections of this chapter, as of the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

(Ord. No. 7184, § 7, 3-15-2010)

#### **8.52.070 - Private property tree removal and landmark tree pruning permits—Applications.**

- A. Where other discretionary approval is requested: Where a property owner wishes to remove a tree protected under this ordinance as part of a plan for which a discretionary approval under Title 17 of this code is otherwise required, the application for discretionary approval shall also be deemed an application for a permit under this chapter to the decision maker for the discretionary approval. Any decision on the application for a permit shall be subject to the same procedures for appeal and call for review as a decision on the associated discretionary approval.
- B. Where no discretionary approval is requested: Where a property owner wishes to remove a tree protected under this ordinance on private property, and no other discretionary approval is required under Title 17 of this code, an application shall be made to the city manager or his/her designee for a permit according to the standard application procedures and submittal requirements set forth in Chapter 17.60 except that the decision shall be made in accordance with the time set forth in Section 8.52.075(B). A decision on an application shall be made according to the standards of this chapter and shall be subject to the same procedures for appeal and call for review set forth in Chapter 17.72 as if it were a decision of the director within the meaning of that chapter. No noticed public hearing shall be required for an application under this section unless otherwise required by another section of this code or state or federal law.
- C. Landmark tree pruning. Any property owner desiring to prune a landmark tree located on their property shall make an application to the city manager on a form provided by the city to assure that the pruning shall be conducted according to the most recent standards of the International Society of Arboriculture.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

(Ord. No. 7184, § 8, 3-15-2010)

#### **8.52.075 - Private property tree removal and landmark tree pruning permits—Issuance.**

- A. Any permit or approval which will result in injury to or removal of a mature, landmark, landmark-eligible, native or specimen tree protected under this chapter shall be denied unless one of the following findings is made: (1) there is a public benefit as defined in Section 8.52.024(R), or a public health, safety or welfare benefit, to the injury or removal that outweighs the protection of the specific tree; or (2) the present condition of the tree is such that it is not reasonably likely to survive; or (3) tree is an objective feature of the tree that makes the tree not suitable for the protections of this chapter; or (4) there would be a substantial hardship to a private property owner in the enjoyment and use of real property if the injury or removal is not permitted; or (5) to not permit injury to or removal of a tree would constitute a taking of the underlying real property; or (6) the project, as defined in Section 17.12.020, includes a landscape design plan that emphasizes a tree canopy that is sustainable over the long term by adhering to the replacement matrix prepared by the city manager and included in the associated administrative guidelines. Finding 6 shall not apply to permits or approvals seeking removal of a landmark tree and landmark-eligible trees. In addition, for



removal of a landmark tree, any such permit or approval shall be denied unless procedures specified for removal of landmarks in Chapter 17.62 are first followed.

- B. An application shall be granted, denied, or granted conditionally on the date of the associated discretionary decision, or, if none, within 15 business days after a complete application is made. The approval may be based on imposed conditions reasonably necessary to meet the standards of this chapter.
- C. Alternative to Replacement Matrix Requirements. When using Finding 6 for removal of protected trees, the planting of required replacement trees on-site may be satisfied through the following alternative, in compliance with the city's regulations for the implementation of this chapter.
  - 1. Alternative Replacement Fee. The developer may request to pay a fee instead of planting on site up to 50 percent of the required number of replacement trees, as follows:
    - a. The amount of the fee shall be 100 percent of the appraised value of the tree/s that cannot be replaced.
      - i. Applicant must submit an application that includes: an appraisal by a certified arborist utilizing the most recent edition of the Guide for Plant Appraisal (published by the International Society of Arboriculture), the number replacement trees calculated using the replacement matrix, and a report by a certified arborist or landscape architect that determines that the number of required on-site replacement trees would inhibit healthy growth (e.g., overcrowding of new trees; interfere with roots and canopy of existing protected trees and street trees);
      - ii. Up to 50 percent of the required replacement trees must be planted on-site and the replacement fee shall be a maximum of 50 percent of the appraised value of all trees to be removed, prorated as necessary.
    - b. The review authority may approve an alternative replacement fee only after first making all of the following findings:
      - i. Applicant investigated alternative site designs and building footprints using existing development standards;
      - ii. Placing the required number of replacement trees on site with existing plan is not conducive to a sustainable landscape plan (e.g., overcrowding with existing or new trees; occluding important view corridors; disrupting the configuration of existing open space; or a landscape design which has historic or aesthetic importance; interfering with existing site features—walls, driveways, berms, planting beds, pergolas—which have historic or aesthetic importance);
      - iii. A minimum of 50 percent of the required replacement trees are on-site and the spacing and selection of the proposed trees and the landscape design contributes to the city's long-term goals of a sustainable urban forest as determined by the city's arborist;
      - iv. Project includes a well-integrated and thoughtful design solution that enhances the property and its surroundings;
      - v. Project is not injurious to adjacent properties or uses, or detrimental to environmental quality, quality of life, or the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and
      - vi. Project is consistent with the objectives and policies of the applicable design guidelines and the citywide design principles in the general plan.
    - c. One-half of the alternative replacement fee required by this subsection shall be paid (or alternate security provided in a form acceptable to the director of finance) before issuance of a building permit for any part of the project. The remainder of the fee shall be paid before a certificate of occupancy is issued for any portion of the project.

- d. Fees collected in compliance with this section shall be specified for additional plantings that are above and beyond the city's regular planting programs.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

(Ord. No. 7184, § 9, 3-15-2010; Ord. No. 7322, § 4, 5-7-2018)

#### **8.52.076 - Work on public trees.**

Public Trees. No permits will be issued to any person or entity for pruning or removal of public trees, and all pruning and removal of public trees shall be undertaken by employees or contractors of the city pursuant to Section 8.52.080. Any person desiring to initiate special maintenance or removal of a public tree by the city, may make a written request to the city manager and pay the costs of service and replacement at rates established by the city manager and set forth in the tree protection guidelines, should the request be granted. Any such request will be considered based on the provisions of this chapter, established public tree removal criteria, other ongoing public tree work and available resources.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

(Ord. No. 7322, § 5, 5-7-2018)

#### **8.52.077 - Tree relocation.**

If recommended by a certified arborist or landscape architect, proposals to relocate a protected tree shall be considered by the review authority if after receiving an approval, the applicant posts a performance bond (or alternate security provided in a form acceptable to the director of finance) in an amount equal to 100% of the appraised value of relocated tree/s, calculated using the most recent edition of the Guide for Plant Appraisal published by the International Society of Arboriculture) to ensure that the relocated trees are properly established and maintained for three years. Landmark trees are ineligible for relocation.

(Ord. No. 7184, § 11, 3-15-2010)

#### **8.52.080 - Exemptions—No permit required for certain pruning and removal.**

- A. No permit is required to prune a native or specimen tree on private property as long as the tree is not injured.
- B. No permit is required to prune, injure or remove a tree that is not explicitly protected by this chapter.
- C. Where immediate action is required for the protection of life or property, no permit is required to remove or to injure a protected tree which has been determined to be hazardous, by the city manager or his/her designee, any police officer or any fire fighter, after inspection of the tree.
- D. No permit is required for city employees or contractors of the city to do the following: to prune native, public or specimen trees under the direction of the city manager; to prune native, public or specimen trees as required for compliance with statewide regulations applicable to trees around electrical lines; to injure or remove native, public or specimen trees as the city manager has determined is necessary or prudent for the public health, safety or welfare provided advance notice is given by the city manager to the city council unless advance notice is not feasible, in which case notice will be given promptly thereafter. All tree removal shall be otherwise consistent with adopted public tree removal criteria.



- E. No permit is required to prune, injure or remove a tree on a project for which a variance, conditional use permit or design review approval has been obtained from the city prior to the effective date of this chapter or for a project for which a valid building permit has been lawfully issued by the city prior to the effective date of this ordinance.
- F. No permit is required for any tree removal undertaken to cover the city-owned drainage channel known as the East Side Storm Drain as shown on Drawing No. 5095 on file in the offices of the city department of public works and transportation.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

(Ord. No. 7184, § 10, 3-15-2010)

#### **8.52.085 - Prohibited acts.**

The following are prohibited acts under this chapter unless expressly exempted:

- A. Landmark Tree. To prune, injure, or to remove without a permit, a landmark tree located anywhere in the city.
- B. Native Tree. To injure, or to remove without a permit, any native tree located in the established front yard, required side yard, established corner yard, or required rear yard of all property located in a single-family residential or RM-12 multifamily residential zone, and in all areas of all other zoning district anywhere in the city.
- C. Public Tree. To prune, to injure or to remove a public tree located anywhere in the city.
- D. Specimen Tree. To injure, or to remove without a permit, any specimen tree located in the established front yard, required side yard, established corner yard, or required rear yard of all property located in a single-family residential or RM-12 multifamily residential zone, and in all areas of all other zoning districts anywhere in the city.
- E. Landmark-Eligible Tree. To injure, or to remove without a permit, any landmark-eligible tree located in the established front yard, required side yard, established corner yard, or required rear yard of all projects subject to RS and RM-12 development standards, and in all areas of all other zoning district anywhere in the city.
- F. Mature Tree. To injure, or to remove without a permit, any mature tree located in any zone except projects subject to RS and RM-12 development standards.
- G. To plant a tree of a species other than the official street tree in a parkway, median or traffic island, and a violator shall be subject to a civil penalty.
- H. To fail to adhere to the terms and conditions of any permit issued under this chapter.
- I. To fail to adhere to the terms of any tree protection plan imposed as a condition of any discretionary land use approval or development agreement with the city.
- J. To do or commit any unpermitted act that is injurious to a protected tree, including, but not limited to, causing root damage, damage to the trunk, scarring, or any other unpermitted alteration of a protected tree.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

(Ord. No. 7184, § 12, 3-15-2010; Ord. No. 7322, § 6, 5-7-2018)

#### **8.52.090 - Sidewalk and street repair.**

The repair of sidewalks, curbs, gutters or streets may create a need to prune tree roots to the extent that the tree is damaged or becomes unstable. When this occurs, the city manager, whose decision shall be final, shall give consideration to the following in lieu of action that may damage, destabilize or cause the removal of a tree:

- A. To not make such improvements;
- B. To displace the sidewalk laterally away from the tree trunk, either locally for each tree, or uniformly along length of the street;
- C. To displace the curb and gutter laterally into the paved roadway of the street, either locally, or uniformly along a length of the street, which in some cases may necessitate the prohibiting of street parking of vehicles at all times, provided such displacement does not create traffic hazard, or conditions adverse to proper street sweeping or drainage;
- D. To defer repairs with temporary asphalt patch to eliminate hazard;
- E. To widen the parkway;
- F. To relocate the sidewalk or curb;
- G. To eliminate the sidewalk on one side of the street;
- H. To raise the sidewalk.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

#### **8.52.100 - Hazards—Private property.**

It shall be unlawful and a violation of this chapter to allow any tree, shrub or plant located primarily on private property to create a hazard or to create danger or likelihood of harm to any public place, public area, parkway or street or to public health, safety or welfare.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

#### **8.52.110 - Protection of trees during improvements.**

During the construction, repair, alteration, relocation or removal of any building, structure or accessory structure in the city, no person in control of such work shall leave any protected tree without sufficient guards or protections to prevent injury to the protected tree, in connection with such construction, repair, alteration, relocation or removal and it shall be unlawful and a violation of this chapter to do so.

Condition monitoring shall be required for all projects with affected protected trees and/or the planting to ensure that trees are properly established and maintained for three years.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

(Ord. No. 7184, § 13, 3-15-2010)

#### **8.52.120 - Attachments to street trees.**

No person shall, without the written permission of the city manager, attach or keep attached to any public tree, street tree, shrub or plant in any street, park or other public place of the city, or to the guard or stake intended for the protection thereof, any wire, rope, sign, nail or any other device whatsoever.



(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

**8.52.140 - Interference.**

No person shall interfere with any city employee or city contractor acting under this chapter.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

**8.52.150 - Notice of public tree removal.**

The city manager shall give at least 10 days written notice to abutting property owners prior to the removal of any public tree. No notice shall be required to be given, however, if the public tree has been determined to be hazardous under the standards in Section 8.52.080(C). In the event of a decision under this chapter for the removal of 3 or more public trees in an area, the city manager shall also notify the city council, the design commission and any neighborhood organizations located in such area which are known.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

**8.52.155 - Prosecution of violations.**

A violation of any provision of this chapter shall be prosecuted as a misdemeanor or infraction at the option of the city prosecutor and as further set forth in Section 8.52.160 with respect to penalties and administrative proceedings.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

(Ord. No. 7322, § 7, 5-7-2018)

**8.52.160 - Penalties and administrative proceedings.**

- A. Misdemeanors. Any person who violates any provision of this chapter and is convicted of a misdemeanor shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or by imprisonment for a period of not more than 6 months or by both such fine and imprisonment.
- B. Infractions. Any person who violates any provision of this chapter and is convicted of an infraction shall be punished by a fine as established in Section 1.24.025. Each person convicted may be deemed guilty of a separate offense for every day during any portion of which any violation is committed or permitted.
- C. In addition to the penalty provisions of subsections A and B of this section, violations of Sections 8.52.085, 8.52.100, 8.52.110, 8.52.120 or 8.52.140 may be subject to the administrative proceedings set forth in Chapters 1.25 and 1.26 of this code, including, but without limitation, civil penalties, late payment penalties, administrative fees, other related charges and, to the maximum extent permitted by law, tree replacement costs as established by the city manager and as set forth in the tree protection guidelines.
- D. Civil Penalties. In addition to the penalty provisions of subsections A, B and C of this section, the city may bring a civil action against any person who commits, allows, or maintains a violation of any provision of this chapter. As part of such civil action, a court may assess against any person who commits, allows or maintains a violation of any provision of this chapter a civil penalty in an amount up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) per violation or in an amount as set forth below:

1. Where the violation has resulted in irreparable injury to or removal of a tree, the civil penalty shall be in an amount of up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) per tree unlawfully injured or removed, or in the full amount of the replacement value of each such tree, whichever amount is higher. Such amount shall be payable to the city. Replacement value for the purposes of this section shall be determined utilizing the most recent edition of the Guide for Plant Appraisal, published by the International Society of Arboriculture ("ISA").
  2. Injunctive Relief. A civil action may be commenced to abate, enjoin, or otherwise compel the cessation of such violation.
  3. Costs. In any civil action brought pursuant to this chapter in which the city prevails, the court shall award to the city all costs of investigation and preparation for trial, the costs of trial, reasonable expenses including overhead and administrative costs incurred in prosecuting the action, and reasonable attorney fees.
- E. In addition to the penalty provisions of subsections A, B, C, and D of this section, the city may suspend or revoke any application for, or grant of, any discretionary permit that may be associated with the address upon which such irreparable injury or removal of a protected tree has occurred.
1. Protected Trees. If a tree that is protected by this chapter is irreparably injured or removed in violation of this chapter after the responsible person has been previously notified or warned of the tree's protected status, then no building or construction-related permits shall be issued, and no permits or use of the property shall be allowed, from the date of irreparable injury or removal for a period of one year.
  2. Date of Actual Injury or Removal. For purposes of this section, the irreparable injury or removal of any tree protected by this chapter shall be presumed to have occurred on the date the city has actual knowledge of the injury or removal. The person responsible for the injury or removal shall have the burden of proving a different date if one is claimed.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)

(Ord. No. 7322, § 8, 5-7-2018)

#### **8.52.165 - Remedies not exclusive.**

To the maximum extent permitted by law, administrative remedies specified in this chapter are in addition to and do not supersede or limit any and all other remedies, civil or criminal. The remedies provided for herein shall be cumulative and not exclusive.

(Ord. 6896 § 2 (part), 2002)



## **City of Pasadena Urban Forestry Advisory Committee**

A subcommittee of the Design Commission

By-Laws

April 9, 2019

In accordance with Ordinance 2.80.135 which initiated the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee dated May 9th, 2002, the following by-laws shall govern the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee of the City of Pasadena in the performance of its duties and the exercise of its powers as set forth in Section 2.80.135 of the Pasadena Municipal Code).

### **Delegation of Authority**

Pursuant to section 2.80.135 of the Pasadena Municipal Code, UFAC may be delegated by the Design Commission the following: the review, advise and recommendations with respect to street trees as are specified in in Section 2.80.110 (B)(2) and (3), related to streetscapes and city construction, respectively; the review, advice and recommendations specified in Section 2.80.110 (B)(11); and for projects sent to the Design Commission for review under Title 17 of this code, the review of landscape design plans, and related permits and tree protection plans for protected trees on public and private property as well as for planting new trees on such property.

On August 9, 2004, the Design Commission reaffirmed UFAC's ongoing practice of reviewing non-hazardous tree removal requests. Additionally, the Design Commission delegated UFAC the authority to review, advise and make recommendations related to the City's Master Street Tree Plan; and delegated UFAC the authority to review, advise and make recommendations related to public tree planting, maintenance and removal practices.

### **Membership**

1. Membership terms for UFAC members serving as representatives of either the Design Commission or Parks and Recreation Commission serve concurrent with their commission term, and term out with their respective commission term. At that time, the Design or Parks and Recreation Commission shall elect another representative to UFAC.
2. The Pasadena Beautiful Foundation representative is selected by that organization and shall serve a 3 year term with the possibility of an additional 3 year term for a total of 6 years.
3. There are two "At Large" UFAC members as selected by the City Council. These members shall demonstrate knowledge and experience in arboriculture, or in the alternative, one of whom may be another representative of the Pasadena Beautiful Foundation. Each member shall serve a 3 year term with the possibility of an additional 3 year term, for a total of 6 years.

### **Vacancies**

Should the office of the chair or vice chair become vacant, the committee shall elect a successor from its members at the next regular meeting.

### **Public Meetings:**

All meetings of UFAC shall be open to the public and to the press and in conformance with the Brown Act..

### **Member Responsibility:**

No committee member shall purport to represent UFAC without the prior approval of a majority of the committee.

### **Code of Ethics:**

The Code of Ethics shall be in conformance with Resolution No. 4830 as provided in the Commissioner Orientation Handbook.

**Conflicts of Interest:**

Conflicts of interest shall be in conformance with Section III – Conflicts of Interest - of the Commissioner Orientation Handbook.

**Attendance:**

- A. Members of the committee shall inform the recording secretary at least 48 hours prior to a regular meeting of the committee if they are unable to attend the scheduled meeting. Any member who is absent from three consecutive regular meetings of the committee, and who has not provided prior notice shall be deemed to have resigned from membership. The recording secretary shall notify the secretary to the Mayor of any member with three consecutive unexcused absences. Committee members who are to be absent shall notify the chair and the recording secretary, stating the reason for the absence by email. The chair of the committee may excuse absences. Absences shall be recorded in the minutes as “absent” or “excused.”
- B. Quorum. Four members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

**Chair**

The chair of the committee shall preside at all meetings of the committee with the same responsibility to vote as other members, and shall have the powers and duties usually incident to such office as prescribed in Robert’s Rules of Order, latest revised edition.

**Vice Chair**

The vice chair of the committee shall carry out the duties of the chair in the chair’s absence. If neither the chair nor the vice chair is present at a meeting, the duties of chair shall be assumed by the most recent past chair,

**Recording Secretary**

The Public Works Director shall designate an employee to act as recording secretary to the committee. The duties of the recording secretary shall be to take minutes of all committee meetings, to make and serve all required notices, and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Public Works director.

**Reports of the Director of Public Works**

The Public Works Director may designate staff of the Public Works Department to make any reports, recommendations or presentations to the committees which are required by ordinance or these By-Laws.

**Proceedings****Regular Meetings:**

Unless circumstances warrant otherwise, the committee shall hold at least one regular meeting per month, scheduled on the **second Wednesday**. The committee shall designate location and the hour and day of the month upon which its regular meetings shall be held. Upon the establishment of the time and place of such meetings, notice in writing shall be given each member thereof by the recording secretary, to the City Council and to the City Manager. Such notice shall constitute notice of each meeting thereafter held pursuant to such action until such time is changed by action of the committee, and no other or further notice shall be required.

**Special Meetings:**

Special meetings must be in conformance with Section 5 – Public Meetings – of the Commissioner Orientation Handbook, and must not be scheduled in conflict with the regular meetings of the Design Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, or Recreation and Parks Commission, when a member of one of those bodies is also a member of UFAC.



### **Robert's Rules of Order**

Order of business for the committee shall be as follows, unless altered by the chair:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Comments from the public on matters not on the agenda
4. Comments on the agenda
5. Approval of minutes
6. New Business/Action Items
7. Comments from the staff / Announcements
8. Comments from the commission Committee
9. Date of next meeting
11. Adjournment.

The following procedure shall be followed by UFAC in reviewing New Business/Action Items applications:

- A. The title of the matter before the committee shall be read or announced by the recording secretary.
- B. The committee chair shall request that the staff report be presented to the committee.
- C. Questions to Staff from the Committee Members.
- D. The chair shall call for the applicant or proponent to present or submit additional facts or evidence.
- E. The chair shall call for statements of any other persons about the matter under consideration by filling out a speaker card and delivering the card to the recording secretary.
- F. In hearings where there are delegations or groups of persons as proponents or opponents, the chair may request the group or delegation to appoint spokespersons in order to aid in an orderly presentation of the evidence and to avoid redundancy.
- G. On completion of statements of proponents and opponents, an opportunity for rebuttal shall be given to the applicant.
- I. The chair, after completion of statements by applicants, proponents and opponents, shall declare the matter to be closed to public comment. Thereafter, no further evidence shall be received by the committee, unless the majority of the committee votes to reopen the matter for public comment.
- J. The committee shall then take action by voting on the matter, either by approving, approving with conditions, denying, or continuing the matter for further consideration. The action shall be made by motion, a second and a vote of the committee.
- K. The chair shall announce the decision of the committee. Where the matter is under advisement, the chair shall state that any person wishing to be given notice of the action of the committee shall file, in writing, his or her name and address with the recording secretary.
- L. Field Inspection. The chair shall announce any field inspection to be made, stating the itinerary, date and time of recessing and reconvening.

### **Preserving Decorum**

In all matters and considerations not otherwise provided for in these rules, the proceedings of the committee are governed by the most recent edition of "Robert's Rules of Order."

During a public hearing or other meeting where the public is authorized to speak, no person may speak unless recognized by the chair who shall not unduly withhold such recognition. The Chair has authority to restrict public comment to a time to be specified, if they wish, and stated prior to public comment beginning of public comment. All persons shall preface their comments by citing their name and address for the record. Once a motion is before the committee, the public will not be permitted to speak nor comment aloud during the committee or discussion of the motion.

### **Voting**

All voting shall be by voice vote unless a roll call is requested by the chair or a member of the committee. No action of the committee shall be valid without a majority vote of all members present. Any member may have an

explanation of her or his vote recorded in the official minutes provided the request is made while the vote is being taken or before the next item of business is taken up.

#### **Minutes**

Minutes of committee meetings shall be distributed to each member prior to approval. The minutes shall be prepared as "Action Minutes" in conformance with Resolution No. 7508. The minutes shall be reviewed and approved prior to them entering into the permanent UFAC record.

#### **Agenda**

The Public Works Director or assigned representative shall prepare an agenda for each committee meeting to transmit to the individual members of the committee and other interested persons at least 72 hours prior to the meeting, and post on the City's Web Site.

#### **Submittals**

The Public Works Director shall establish procedures and schedule for submittals by applicants to the committee. Submittals shall include information and plans as may be reasonably required by the committee in its deliberations.

#### **Limiting Testimony**

At any meeting or hearing, the chair may limit the presentation of any testimony to relevant matters, and place reasonable restrictions upon the time of presentation.

#### **Election of Officers**

##### **Nominating Committee**

The committee shall elect its officers according to the following procedure. Any member of the commission may volunteer to serve on the nominating committee, whose function it shall be to make recommendations to the full committee on candidates for the offices of chair and vice chair. The nominating committee shall consist of two or three committee members.

##### **Election of Officers**

The committee shall schedule an election of officers for the last regular meeting of the committee in June. The newly elected officers shall commence the performance of their duties at the next regular meeting of the committee after the meeting at which the election of officers is held. The chair and vice chair office shall last one year and shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

#### **Guidelines**

- A. The following documents shall serve as standards for deliberations by the committee and current copies shall be given to each UFAC member upon joining the committee.
  - The Committee By-laws
  - Master Street Tree Plan
  - City Trees and Tree Protection Ordinance
  - Commissioners Handbook

#### **Amendments**

These rules may be amended by City Council according to Section II of the Commissioner Orientation Handbook.




**Takeda, Michi**

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**From:** Lisa Quinn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2025 1:43 PM  
**To:** commentsDC  
**Subject:** Support of the revision of the Trees Ordinance to protect our urban forest

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I support the revision of the Trees Ordinance to protect our urban forest.

I spoke at the May 14 UFAC meeting regarding my experience with a specific tree scheduled for removal by the city.

There is no process for the community to appeal.

I called the Citizens Service Center as directed on the removal notice. They could not provide any information and informed me that the forestry department which was in charge, could not be reached directly.

They submitted a question for me as to why the tree was going to be taken down and read me the answer when it came back. It was very hard to understand, but there seemed to be no way to get clarification or to do anything about it.

It was suggested at the UFAC meeting that perhaps these folks were not well trained or that this was a fluke. It was not. I called back on Friday, May 23rd and got the same treatment, leaving me frustrated that there were no steps I could take that would have any effect on the determination.

I feel strongly that there needs to be:

- 1) An appeal process and instructions on the white Removal Paper posted on the tree as to exactly what a citizen can do to appeal
- 2) A Board of Appeals consisting of independent arborists to make the final decision about killing or saving a tree
- 3) A Report Form requiring a listing of ways the tree in question could be helped to regain its health
- 4) A place on the Tree Removal Report form to list all the methods that were used to try to save the tree


Lisa Quinn  
91104

## Takeda, Michi

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**From:** Malie Tsurunaga [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2025 7:42 PM  
**To:** commentsDC  
**Subject:** Tree ordinance

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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It's not bad but we should require more trees rather than just prosecuting their removal.

We should require a certain shade area in all above ground parking lots coming from trees so developers don't just plant small sickly non shade trees.

Happy with the revocation of building permits but other penalties seem slight. Many people just factor in the cost of penalties when they cut down protected trees.

In fact maybe tie penalties to the size/age of the trees.

You should also consider helping homeowners with deep watering so the roots don't break up sidewalks.

And finally I hope you never repeat the removal of the beautiful shade trees on Colorado. Downtown now looks like San Bernardino and not the cool old part.



## Takeda, Michi

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**From:** Suzanne York [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 6:37 AM  
**To:** commentsDC  
**Cc:** Takeda, Michi  
**Subject:** Strengthening Pasadenas tree ordinance

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Good evening commissioners. My name is Suzanne York and I'm a Pasadena resident.

I'm writing tonight because our city's current tree ordinance is inadequate. With increasingly extreme heat and wildfire risk, we need our mature and native trees more than ever. Each mature tree removes about 48 pounds of carbon dioxide a year, cools our air, filters pollution, stabilizes soil, and provides critical habitat and shade. Fire-tolerant native species even help suppress embers and protect our homes.

But Pasadena is losing hundreds of trees every year—many of them mature, healthy, and irreplaceable. While some tree loss is unavoidable, we are not doing enough to prevent unnecessary removals or engage the public in the process.

I urge you to revise the ordinance with the following improvements:

- Create a clear and accessible appeal process for tree removals. Right now, public input goes nowhere unless we organize rallies or call the media—this is not sustainable.
- Require written evaluations of mitigation options—like pruning or treatment—before any removal moves forward.
- Add two certified arborists to the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee, and ensure UFAC reviews all removals of mature or native trees.
- Give UFAC real authority to request independent assessments or additional testing like sonic tomography.
- Use standardized tools like the ISA Basic Tree Assessment Form to guide decisions.
- And finally, educate and support residents in caring for trees on the parkways near their homes.

Our trees are not disposable—they are vital infrastructure in a changing climate. Please act now to protect and preserve them with a stronger, smarter ordinance. Thank you.

**Takeda, Michi**

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**From:** Tina Miller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 10:10 PM  
**To:** commentsDC  
**Subject:** Comment for 05.27.2025 Meeting of the Design Commission - Tree Protection Ordinance

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Dear Design Commissioners,

I am writing in strong support of the much needed revisions to the Tree Protection Ordinance. Although each of the topics stated in the Ad Hoc Urban Forestry Task Force are very important, I feel the area that needs extra attention is the role of the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC). Like you, Pasadena residents serve on this city committee to provide opinions to the department staff. But unlike you, UFAC has no real authority. Their opinions are just that, opinions. Therefore, the committee's role should be strengthen so that it has a true purpose. It should provide a place where concerned residents can voice their thoughts to the UFAC members regarding tree treatment and be heard knowing that has their concerns have consequences and weight.

To insure that the committee speaks from knowledge, they should be required to attend educational forestry workshops. This requirement is necessary for other city commissions and should be followed by UFAC, also. It would also benefit from having a couple of certified arborists to provide even more independent and in depth review.

Thank you.

Tina Miller  
Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission  
Board Member of the Bungalow Heaven Neighborhood Association