

Introduction

Since 2005, West Coast Arborists, Inc. has been working with the City of Redlands to develop a Street Tree Planting Plan to manage the future growth of one of the City's most valued assets, street trees.

Having researched the City, it became apparent that the primary goals of the Street Tree Planting Plan should be to build upon the legacy of work that had been done in the past, work that has established the City of Redlands as a symbol for the urban forestry movement of today. It was agreed that the Planting Plan should address issues relating to the health and welfare of the City's trees and make recommendations, with the Public Works Department approval, that future generations would benefit from.

It can probably be stated that the majority agrees with the concept of a tree planting program on public streets and grounds despite the recent outcry of citizens and voters against general government spending. Trees can be looked upon as a difficult to value resource used to create a more livable environment - one that adds character, distinguishes the local scene and provides landmarks to embellish the history of a given area. A telling example of the value placed upon trees by the public is typified by the concern that erupts when a development removes a mature stand of trees or when a street widening project requires replacement of shade trees.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide a planting plan for new development and redevelopment.
- Protect the inherent property values of homeowners and businesses.
- Promote the elegance and urbanity of the City's trees.
- Establish approved species by streets within geographical sectors in the City.
- Reduce maintenance costs in the long run by providing like trees in a similar area.
- Provide trees more adaptable to soil conditions within the City.

CREATING A STREET TREE PLANTING PLAN

A palette of approved street tree species was provided to West Coast Arborists, Inc. by city staff. The palette is organized by the appropriateness of each tree species to planting space widths and was reviewed and revised by stakeholders.

A palette of recommended trees is no more than a list of trees with the fewest faults specific to the conditions of the unit in question. To serve a community well, trees should be of long life and attractive at old age. They should be reasonably free of insects, diseases and should have a well behaved, deep root system that does not buckle sidewalks or enter sewer lines. They must withstand the elements and require a minimum of maintenance. Emphasis should be placed on the planting of street trees either behind the sidewalk or in expanded planting strips between

the curb and sidewalk to eliminate the recurring incidence of root damage to hardscape, regardless of the tree species.

No approved list of trees should be forever frozen, since growers are continuously propagating new breeds and existing trees fall to new diseases. A periodic review should be made to perhaps eliminate others if problems arise over time.

Three species were recommended for each street within a district. Included in these considerations are:

- Parkway size
- Power line interference
- Current species (existing)
- Planting space
- Soil conditions
- Elements applicable to the site

Vacant planting sites were identified by the Certified Arborist who performed the inventory.

The Street Tree Planting Plan provides guidelines for the ongoing management of the street tree population in Redlands. Implementation of the Plan will help to assure the health of the urban forest and benefits to the residents of the City.