



# STAFF REPORT

**To:** Beautification Commission

**Date:** February 6, 2025

**From:** Richard Holtz, Parks Superintendent/City Arborist (650) 558-7333  
Carlie Burow, Parks Supervisor (650) 558-7335

**Subject:** Themed Block Discussion

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Beautification Commission review the staff report, ask questions, and direct staff to return to the March 6, 2025 Beautification Commission with information that could help the Commission decide if any changes should be made to areas with Themed Block designation.

## **BACKGROUND**

A street tree themed block is defined as a block in which one defined species of street tree is established and maintained indefinitely. Once a themed block is established and a tree is removed for any reason, the tree would be replaced with a tree of the established theme species. The idea for establishing themed blocks was first introduced to the Council by two interested citizens who wanted to help maintain the historic and aesthetic look and feel of several blocks with a dominant tree species. The idea was referred to the Beautification Commission for consideration. In April 2008, the Beautification Commission heard the proposal, which included discussion on several topics, including the following: width of available planting areas, altering current planting lists, changing how street trees are selected by district/block/neighborhood, (re)introducing the concept of a dominant species, updating the tree inventory, and potential elimination of tree categories from planting plans (ornamentals and evergreens). In May 2008, then Parks and Recreation Director Schwartz facilitated a discussion between the Commission and community members. As a result of that discussion, the Commission made the following recommendations to the City Council:

- Retain existing 'themed' streets in the City of Burlingame by replacing them with existing species if the dominant species on the street is of tall form. This is regardless of disruptions to sidewalks.
- Do not create 'themed' streets where they currently do not exist and allow the property owners to choose from the appropriate tree list.

- Staff should revise the official street tree lists to contain trees that only have the tallest, most significant canopies.
- In addition, retain 'ornamentals' and 'evergreen' tree species with the tallest, most significant canopies on the official tree lists.
- Include some larger species from the 6' planter strip list to the 4-6' planter strip list where possible, or change the dimensions of planting strip requirements.
- Create larger planting spaces throughout the City where possible.
- Only remove and replace trees when an existing tree must be removed.
- Tree replacements should be planted as soon as possible.

As a result of the Beautification Commission action and Council consensus, staff prepared a Draft Themed Block List and Policy of Establishing a Themed Block that was presented and approved at the August 7, 2008, Beautification Commission meeting. From that Beautification Commission meeting in 2008, 98 blocks were designated as themed blocks. Since then, the City of Burlingame and the residents have added 24 additional themed blocks making the current total of 122. (Exhibit A)

### **Policy for Establishing Themed Blocks**

Upon adoption of the List of Themed Blocks, the Commission considered a policy to address the future establishment of themed blocks. Over time, the public may desire to request the Commission add themed blocks to the list. Staff presented the draft policy for review at the Beautification Commission meeting on August 7, 2008. A public hearing was conducted at the meeting on September 4, 2008, to consider this policy. After public input, the Commission adopted the following policy proposal:

- The Beautification Commission will recommend "Themed Blocks" to the City Council.
- To petition the Beautification Commission for a new themed block, a property owner on a block shall gather signatures of at least 2/3 of the property owners.
- Forms for the "Petition" will be provided by the Parks and Recreation Department Office.
- Petitions shall be forwarded to the Beautification Commission for recommendation to the Council to establish a new "themed" block.
- If approved, staff will determine the species theme in collaboration with the property owners.
- Selected "themed" species will replace existing trees only when the removal of an existing tree is deemed necessary according to City policy.

The ability to remove a block from Themed Block designation was added at a later date. Presently, if a block would like to remove the Themed Block designation, 75% of property owners must agree and sign the petition form to remove the entire block for the matter to be considered. (Exhibit B)

### **DISCUSSION**

Themed Blocks add a benefit to our community that includes honoring the intended look of a developed area. Themed blocks can create an aesthetic look and feel with a memorable

uniformity (Exhibit C). Continuing the existing Themed Block designations generally, continues the intended look original designers had during the development of our community. Ensuring a consistent mature canopy can provide a multitude of benefits including greater property value.

However, Themed Blocks can also have challenges. This includes the creation of a mono-culture with little biodiversity. Pests or diseases have been known to wipe-out entire neighborhoods of trees due to lack of species diversification. This has occurred in the past with Dutch Elm Disease and presently with the Emerald Ash Borer. Additionally, requiring a large canopy tree due to themed block designation in a location that has confined growing space can create a perennial conflict. These trees are unable to reach their intended size and require significant and frequent maintenance resources from the City and utility providers to reduce risk.

During the public discussion surrounding the update of our tree ordinance, some concerns were expressed in relation to Themed Blocks. These concerns include utility conflict, frustration with lack of choice and lack of biodiversity. As we have updated our municipal code to reflect arboriculture, staff have been asked to evaluate if practices we have engaged in also subscribe to modern day arboriculture practices.

The Arbor Day Foundation espouses a principle of “The Right Tree in The Right Place” (Exhibit D). This follows the basic principle that a tree is planted so that it is sustainable and will not require significant input after planting. This reduces conflict that could reduce the life or quality of the tree grown absent significant input.

The Beautification Commission is the most appropriate conduit to consider if any changes to our current practices with Themed Blocks should be modified.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

### **EXHIBITS**

- A. Current Themed Block List
- B. Themed Block Policy Form
- C. Photos of Themed Blocks
- D. Arborday Brochure



# City of Burlingame Parks & Recreation Department

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## City Street Trees – Themed Blocks

(Revised 10.2022)

Street	Theme	Planter Width	Min Width	Recommendation
1600 Adeline	Sycamore	36/36	48	Themed Block
1700 Adeline	Sycamore	36/P36	48	Themed Block
1800 Adeline	Sycamore	36/P36	48	Themed Block
1900 Adeline	Sycamore	36/P36	48	Themed Block
2000 Adeline	Sycamore	36/36	48	Themed Block
500 Almer	Liquidambar	62/62		Replace w/ Red Maple
800 Alpine	Sycamore	36/36	48	Themed Block
1000 Balboa	Liquidambar	36/36		Replace w/Trident Maple
1400 Balboa	Catalpa	36/36	36	Themed Block
1600 Balboa	Liquidambar	36/36		Replace w/Trident Maple
100 Bayswater	Ginkgo	72/P72	36	Themed Block
200 Bayswater	Ginkgo	72/P72	36	Themed Block
300 Bayswater	Ginkgo	72/P72	36	Themed Block
400 Bayswater	Ginkgo	72/P72	36	Themed Block
500 Bayswater	Ginkgo	72/P72	36	Themed Block
600 Bayswater	Ginkgo	72/P72	36	Themed Block
700 Bayswater	Ginkgo	72/P72	36	Themed Block
800 Bayswater	Ginkgo	84/P84	36	Themed Block
900 Bayswater	Ginkgo	69/P69	36	Themed Block
1000 Bayswater	Ginkgo		36	Themed Block
1100 Bayswater	Ginkgo	80/P80	36	Themed Block
1200 Bayswater	Ginkgo	80/P80	36	Themed Block
1300 Bayswater	Ginkgo	84/P84	36	Themed Block
1200 Bellevue	Liquidambar	60/60		Replace w/ Red Maple
1300 Bernal	Sycamore	48/48	48	Themed Block
1400 Bernal	Sycamore	48/48	48	Themed Block
300 Bloomfield	Sycamore	72/P72	48	Themed Block
400 Bloomfield	Sycamore	72/P72	48	Themed Block
300 Burlingame Ave	Camphor	120/120		Replace w/ Red Maple
400 Burlingame Ave	Camphor	120/144		Replace w/ Red Maple
500 Burlingame Ave	Camphor	144/P120		Replace w/ Red Maple
800 Burlingame Ave	Camphor	120/P144		Replace w/ Red Maple
850 - 1000 Burlingame Ave	Euc. Viminalis = (3 blks.)	120/144		Themed Blocks
1500 Burlingame Ave.	Sycamore	48/P48	48	Themed Block
1200 Cabrillo	Liquidambar	36/36		Replace w/ Trident Maple
400 - 1100 California Dr.	P. Calleryana 'Chanticleer' = (9 blks.)	48/P72	36	Replace with 'European Hornbeam'
1100 Cambridge	Elm	72/72	50	Themed Block
300 Channing	Sycamore	72/P72	48	Themed Block
200 Chapin	Sycamore	32/32	48	Themed Block
300 Chapin	Sycamore	32/32	48	Themed Block

1600	Chapin	Sycamore	32/32	48	Themed Block
400	Chatham	Sycamore	72/72	48	Themed Block
300	Clarendon	Red Oak	48/48	50	Themed Block
1500	Columbus	Red Oak	48/48	50	Themed Block
300	Concord	Liquidambar	72/72		Replace w/ Red Maple
600	Concord	Sycamore	72/72	48	Themed Block
700	Concord	Sycamore	72/72	48	Themed Block
500	Corbitt	Sycamore	96/P96	48	Themed Block
1100	Cortez	Sycamore	36/36	48	Themed Block
1200	Cortez	Sycamore	36/36	48	Themed Block
800	Crossway	Liquidambar	48/48		Replace w/ Red Maple
400	Cumberland	Sycamore	72/72	48	Themed Block
1400	Desoto	Sycamore	50/50	48	Themed Block
1100	Douglas	Sycamore	53/P48	48	Themed Block
1100	Drake	Sycamore	36/36	48	Themed Block
300	Dwight	Red Oak	48/P48	50	Themed Block
1500-2000	Easton	Euc. Globulus = (6 blks.)	19'/P48		Themed Blocks
800	Edgehill	Liquidambar	68/68		Replace w/ Red Maple
1300	Edgehill	Liquidambar	68/P72		Replace w/ Red Maple
1400	Floribunda	Liquidambar	57/P72		Replace w/ Red Maple
1500	Floribunda	Liquidambar	59/P60		Replace w/ Red Maple
500	Francisco	Sycamore	96/P96	48	Themed Block
2100	Hillside	Sycamore	144/144	48	Themed Block
2200	Hillside	Sycamore	144/144	48	Themed Block
2300	Hillside	Sycamore	144/144	48	Themed Block
2400	Hillside	Sycamore	144/144	48	Themed Block
1200	Laguna	Sycamore	84/P84	48	Themed Block
1300	Laguna	Liquidambar	84/P84		Replace w/ Red Maple
1400	Laguna	Liquidambar	84/P84		Replace w/ Red Maple
300	Lexington	Sycamore	72/72	48	Themed Block
500	Lexington	Sycamore	72/72	48	Themed Block
600	Lexington	Sycamore	72/72	48	Themed Block
800	Maple	Linden	36/36		Replace w/ Trident Maple
400	Marin	Sycamore	72/72	48	Themed Block
500	Marin	Sycamore	84/84	48	Themed Block
1600	McDonald Way	Liriodendron	65/65		Replace w/ Red Maple
1100	Mills	Sycamore	60/P60	48	Themed Block
1200	Mills	Sycamore	60/P60	48	Themed Block
1300	Mills	Sycamore	60/P60	48	Themed Block
1400	Mills	Sycamore	60/P60	48	Themed Block
1400	Oak Grove	Red Oak	36/P36	50	Themed Block
100	Occidental	Sycamore	56/P48	48	Themed Block
200	Occidental	Sycamore	56/56	48	Themed Block
300	Occidental	Sycamore	56/P48	48	Themed Block
400	Occidental	Sycamore	56/P48	48	Themed Block
1100	Oxford	Elm	48/48	48	Themed Block
1100	Palm	Sycamore	72/P72	48	Themed Block
1200	Palm	Sycamore	P72/P72	48	Themed Block
1300	Palm	Sycamore	72/P72	48	Themed Block
1400	Palm	Sycamore	84/P72	48	Themed Block
700	Plymouth	Sycamore	72/72	48	Themed Block
1100	Sanchez	Sycamore	48/P48	48	Themed Block

1200	Sanchez	Sycamore	48/P48	48	Themed Block
1300	Sanchez	Sycamore	48/P48	48	Themed Block
1400	Sanchez	Sycamore	48/P48	48	Themed Block
1600	Sherman	Sycamore	36/P36	48	Themed Block
1700	Sherman	Sycamore	P36/P36	48	Themed Block
10	Stanley	Liriodendron	36/P36		Replace w/ Trident Maple
100	Stanley	Liriodendron	36/P36		Replace w/ Trident Maple
200	Stanley	Liriodendron	36/P36		Replace w/ Trident Maple
2100	Trousdale	Modesto Ash	54	48	Replace w/ Raywood Ash
1100	Vancouver	Catalpa	36/P36		Themed Block
500	Vernon	Sycamore	48/48	48	Themed Block
600	Vernon	Liquidambar	48/48		Replace w/ Red Maple
700	Vernon	Sycamore	72/72	48	Themed Block
700	Winchester Dr.	Sycamore	96/P96	48	Themed Block
800	Winchester Dr.	Sycamore	96/P96	48	Themed Block

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EXHIBIT C

















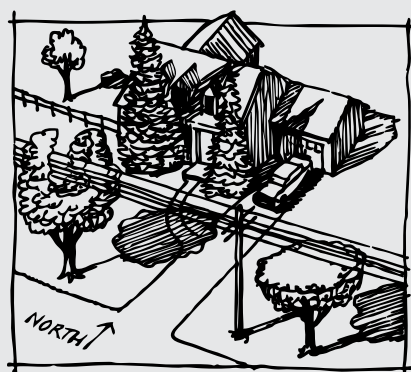


# The Right Tree for the Right Place

**TREE CITY USA®  
BULLETIN**

No. **4**

Editor: Dr. James R. Fazio • \$3.00

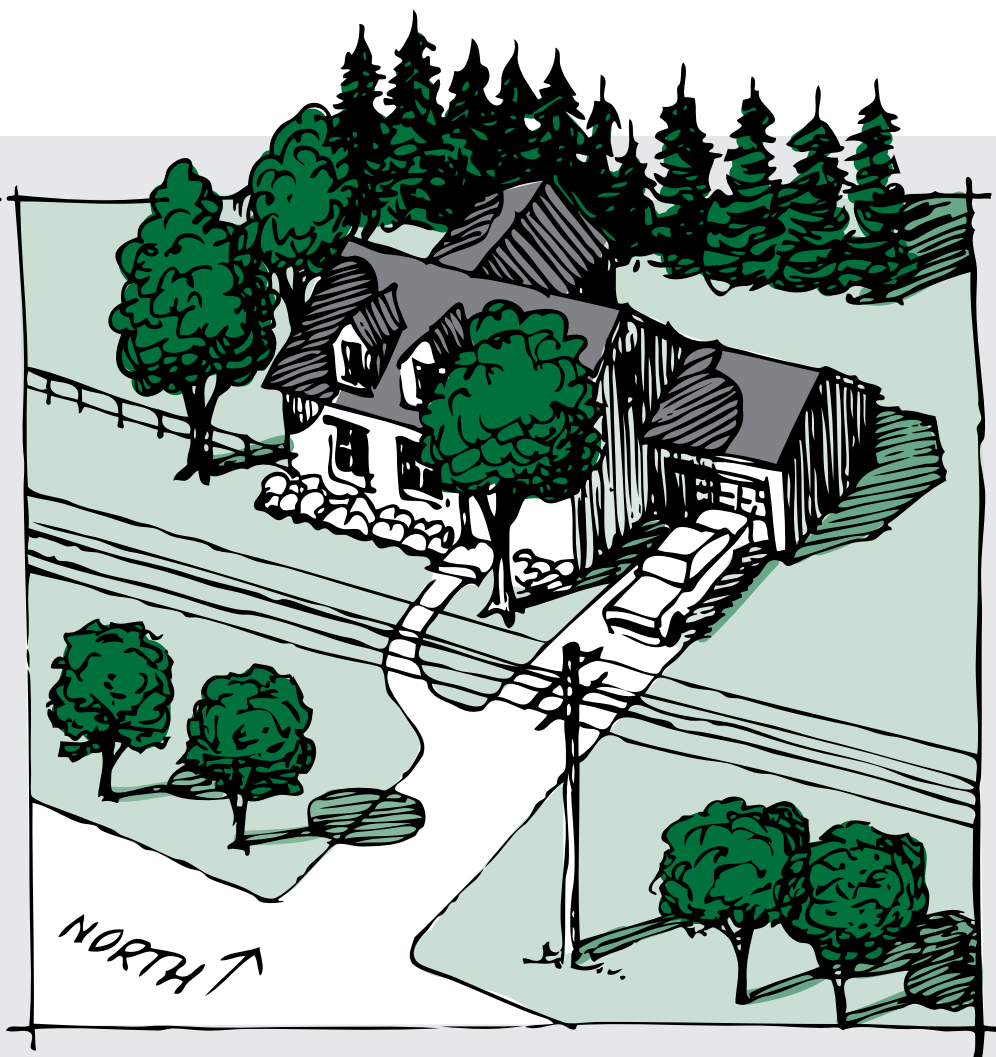


## **WRONG** (above)

Planting large trees under utility lines often means disfigured trees. Large evergreens close to the house on the south block warming winter sunlight.

## **RIGHT** (right)

Short flowering trees don't clash with overhead utility lines. Large deciduous trees on the southeast, southwest, and west provide cooling shade in summer and don't obstruct the low winter sun. An evergreen windbreak on the north blocks cold winter winds.



**A**ny Friend of Tree City USA can list the many benefits of trees — shade, beauty, windbreak, privacy, cleaner air, less noise, less glare, and higher property values to name a few. But the key to these benefits is to select the right tree and plant it in the right place. The right tree in the right place not only ensures a lifetime of satisfaction, it also keeps maintenance costs low.

“What is right?” may sound like an exam question from a class in moral philosophy, but in the green world, it is not quite as complex. A tree's requirements to thrive, its form or shape, its size at maturity, and its role or function in your landscape help determine the best tree to plant. Beyond that, the question enters the grey area of personal taste where what is “right” is largely a matter of opinion.



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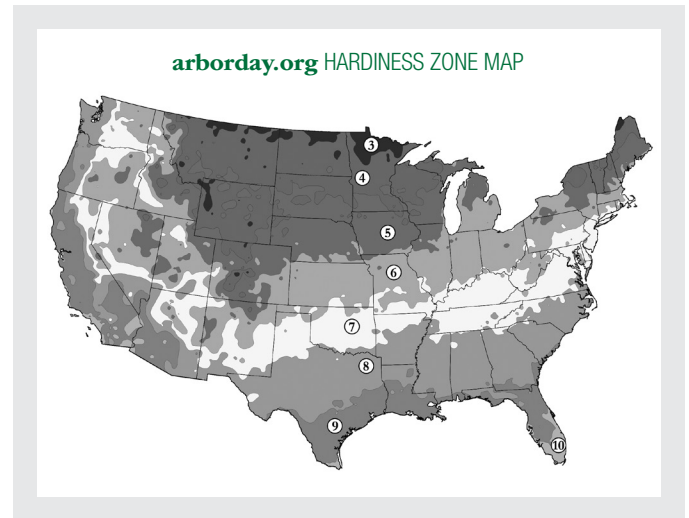
# Environmental Factors to Consider

*In selecting a tree, your first consideration must be what the tree needs. In other words, what environmental factors limit the ability of a particular species to live a healthy life? One indication is to look at the native species in your area. These trees have developed on their own through thousands of years of self-selection to survive where you now live. However, native species alone are usually not the answer. Some non-native species and horticulturally developed cultivars may also do well on your site and offer attributes such as beauty, size, pest resistance, or diversity that natives may not provide.*

## MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

The familiar hardiness map has zoned the country based on average annual minimum temperature. The lowest temperature of the zone limits the range of many trees. Low temperatures, especially if they come suddenly, can freeze and kill the living cells in trees. Select a species suitable to the zone where you live.

**CAUTION:** Elevation and exposure differences (the direction of the slope) within each zone also have an effect. North slopes, windy sites, and higher elevations can make a site equivalent to one or two hardiness zones lower. To find your hardiness zone, visit [arborday.org/zones](http://arborday.org/zones).



## MOISTURE

Each species tolerates wet or dry growing conditions to a different degree. Special attention must be given to your selection if the site periodically is flooded, subjected to very dry conditions, or continually exposed to the drying effect of wind. Watering, of course, can modify a dry site, but even when you irrigate, it is important to know the optimal soil moisture requirement for your species. Tip: Since evergreens give off water (transpiration) from their needles all winter, it is important that they are well-watered in the fall before the ground freezes. Also, do not overwater trees. They will drown or develop root rot if the soil is kept too wet. With heavy, clay-type soils, check soil moisture often and water accordingly during dry summer weather. This may be every seven to 10 days or more often if necessary. Sandy soils need water more frequently than clay soils, but watering every other day is probably too much.



## LIGHT

Shade tolerance is the term foresters use to rate the light requirements of each species. Some species, like white birch and most pines, require full sunlight. They are shade intolerant. Tolerant species, like most maples, hemlocks, and yews, grow well in shade. Others, like white oak, are somewhere in between and are referred to as having intermediate tolerance. Don't make the mistake of planting your tree where it is mismatched with its need for light.



## PESTS

Every locality has its problems with particular insects or diseases. The best way to avoid trouble is to avoid the species that host these pests. In some cases, it is possible to buy cultivars that have been bred for resistance to a disease. For example, where white pine blister rust is a problem, it is best to buy white pine that is certified to be resistant to it. Some species, such as ginkgo, are known for their natural resistance to most pests. Others, such as American elm or ashes, are just the opposite. In most cases, planting a species on a site unlike its natural environment is asking for trouble. For example, birch trees grow naturally in moist environments, including river and lake edges. Planting them in an arid site subjects them to stress and makes them more vulnerable to boring insects.

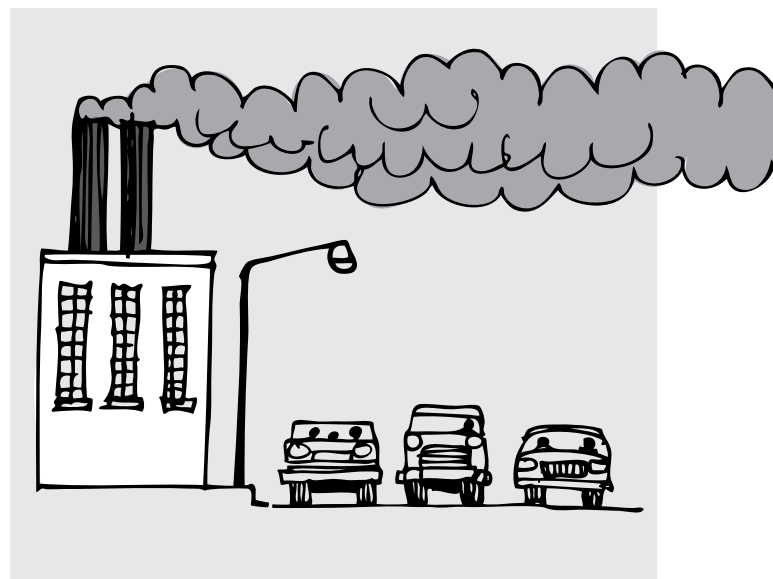
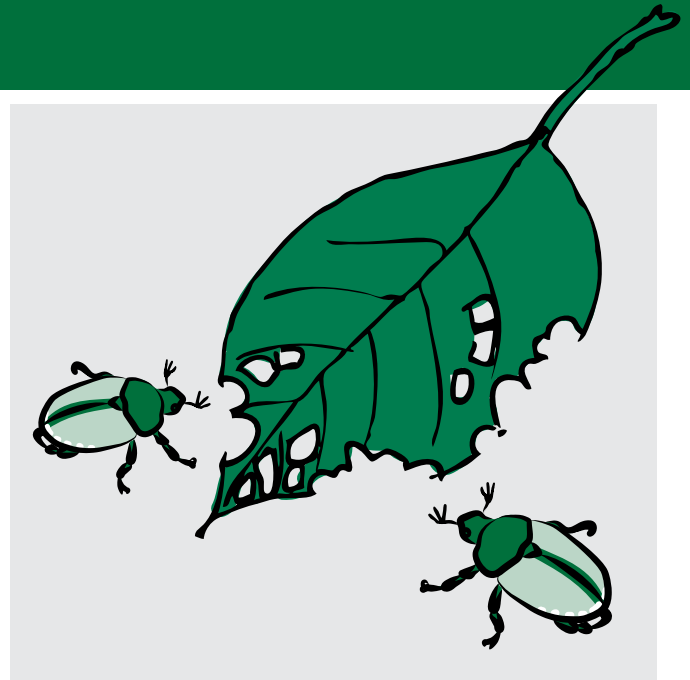
## SOIL

Soil factors are probably the most overlooked when selecting a tree. Soil depth, structure, moisture, and pH can make the difference between success or failure after planting. For example, deep-rooted species will need adequate soil depth for their structural roots, whereas shallow-rooted species may do well on sites where soils thinly cover bedrock or a hard layer of clay. Species that need light or sandy soil should not be planted in rocky or clay-type soils. Also, each tree species has a tolerance range related to acidity and alkalinity, just as it does for shade. This requirement should be matched with the soil where you plan to plant. To learn about the soils in your area, obtain a soil survey map at the county office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Unfortunately, soils are often disturbed in urban areas. Trees that would typically do well in native soil may struggle due to poor soil structure from soil being disturbed or mixed during construction or other building activities. Compaction of any soil due to heavy pedestrian or vehicle use often reduces a tree's growth, size potential, and overall health.

## AIR POLLUTION

Unfortunately, the ability of a species to tolerate air pollution is becoming more important. Chemicals in the air vary with localities, and in some cases, the accumulative effects of pollution are just beginning to show up. The best course of action is to ask a local professional if there are problems in your town and, if so, what species are affected. Similarly, salt spray from either the ocean or street de-icing can be a problem locally, and some species are more sensitive to it than others. Where these are problems, ask a certified arborist, nursery professional, urban forester, or extension agent about which trees to avoid.

**TIP:** Local nurseries generally do not carry trees that are incompatible with the local climate. However, for site factors other than climate, it is pretty much a matter of "buyer beware." Get the answers before you buy, and look around your neighborhood to see what may be growing well.



# Tree Factors to Consider

## 1 THE TREE'S PURPOSE

*A tree's function is the purpose you want it to serve for you. Some of the most common are listed here to help ensure you get the right tree for the right place.*

### SHADE

This is why many people plant trees. Trees provide a greater cooling effect than man-made structures because not only are the rays of the sun blocked, water is also added to the air through transpiration.

Observation is the best way to determine where to plant to maximize shade. In the drawing, notice the difference between July and early autumn. Plant for where you want the shadow during the hottest time of the year — and the time of day you desire the shade.

High, wide-crowned trees with deciduous leaves are the best providers of shade.

### AESTHETICS

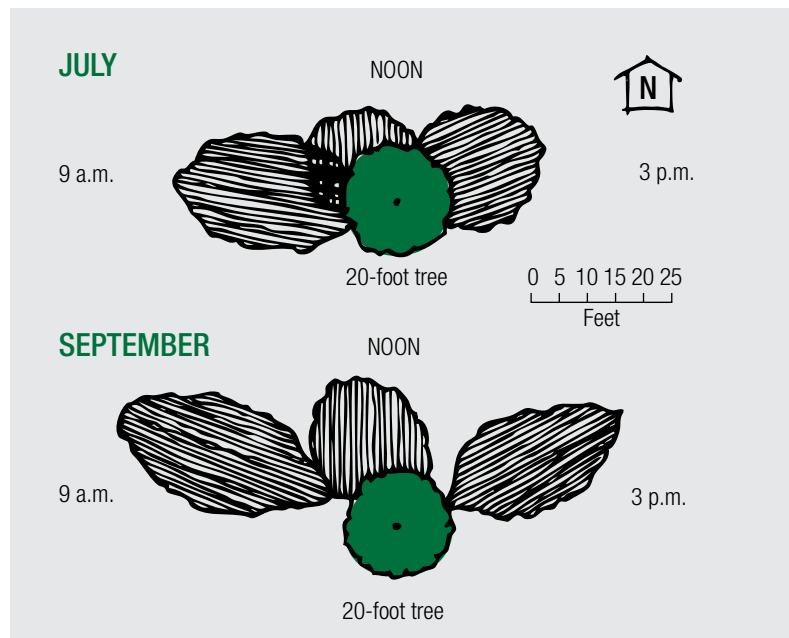
To create an accent, select a tree that will contrast with the predominant landscape character. For example, to give the lot an appearance of greater depth, plant on a diagonal line outward from the front corners of the house. This is called framing. Trees planted behind the house and to the side will provide background. Trees can also add visual appeal to a patio, pool, or play area. They can also be used to separate spaces and provide space enclosure.

**ACCENTS:** A tree with color or some other showy feature can be used as an accent point in your landscaping picture. Don't overdo accents. One accent plant in a given setting or view area is usually enough.

For a visual accent, select a tree that contrasts with the characteristic landscape in one or more of the design elements — form, size, color, or texture. The more contrasts, the stronger the accent will be.

If you wish to have a strong point of emphasis, select a specimen tree with two, three, or even all four of these characteristics:

- ✓ **FORM OR SHAPE:** A tree's form should contrast with the predominate landscape character in a setting. For example, horizontal lines may dominate in a rural midwestern landscape. Accent forms will be those that contrast with that character, such as pyramidal, columnar, or upright oval tree shapes. Weeping forms will also accent since they are uncommon to this characteristic landscape.
- ✓ **SIZE:** A tree that stands out because of its large size will tend to accent.



- ✓ **COLOR:** Planting trees for their spring flower color, fall foliage color, or interesting winter bark is quite popular. While such color is often temporary, it is an important consideration. Summer foliage color, while not as intense, can lend an accent element of longer duration.
- ✓ **TEXTURE:** Foliage texture can be classified as fine, medium, or coarse. If a tree's texture is used as an accent element, it should be an abrupt change from textures that predominate in the characteristic landscape. Bark texture or picturesque branching structure can also complement an accent plant.

### WINDBREAKS AND SCREENS

Low-branching conifers that hold their foliage are most effective for screening unsightly areas and providing privacy. Noise is best reduced by tall, densely planted trees with fleshy, broad leaves. If combined with conifers, some noise reduction can be extended throughout the year. Dust can also be filtered by such a combination. Windbreaks can be made most effective through a dense, step-like arrangement of both conifers and deciduous trees. However, for protection on south and east sides of a house, deciduous species work best because they allow incoming solar radiation in winter.

### BOUNDARIES

Trees can help to visually delineate your property. Small, narrow-crowned species will do the job while not invading your neighbor's space. Plant far enough on your property to avoid the trunk touching the actual property line when mature.



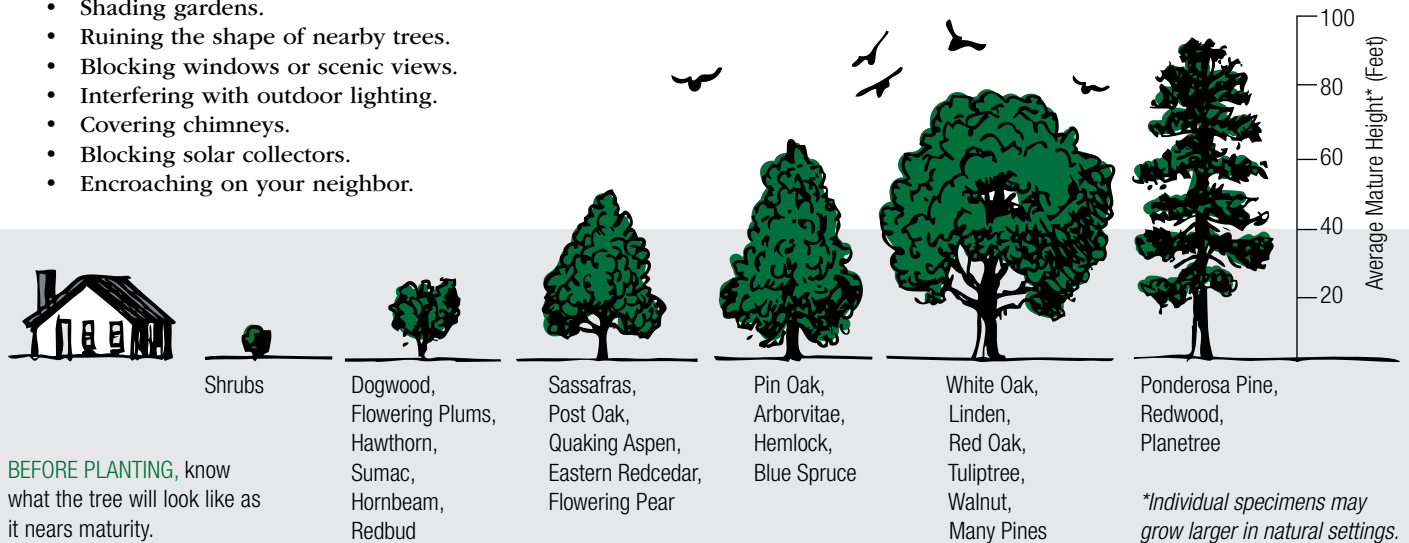
## 2 SIZE AND LOCATION

Available space is probably the consideration most often overlooked or misunderstood when deciding what tree to plant. Even for professionals, it is often difficult to envision the planting site five, 10, or 20 years in the future. Yet this is essential. Before planting, know what the tree will look like as it nears maturity. Consider its height, crown spread, and root space.

Some of the problems below can be dealt with by subsequent pruning. However, it is far easier, less expensive, and better for tree health to select and plant your tree to meet a desired objective while at the same time preventing it from:

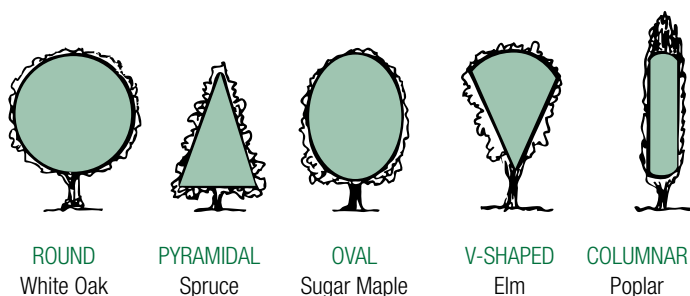
- Lifting walks.
- Entering or moving drainage pipes or other utilities.
- Tangling with wires or eaves.
- Shading gardens.
- Ruining the shape of nearby trees.
- Blocking windows or scenic views.
- Interfering with outdoor lighting.
- Covering chimneys.
- Blocking solar collectors.
- Encroaching on your neighbor.

Spacing Guide	Small tree (<30')	Medium tree (30'-70')	Large tree (>70')
Spacing plant massings	6'-15'	30'-40'	40'-50'
Minimum spacing from wall (one-story building)	8'-10'	15'	20'
Minimum spacing from corner (one-story building)	6'-8'	12'	15'



(These examples are typical mature heights in city conditions. Check booklets published by local forestry professionals or books such as *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* for the expected mature height and crown spread of trees you are considering.)

## 3 CROWN FORM OR SHAPE



The character of tree crowns and thus the form or shape of trees varies among species as much as leaf shapes or bark patterns. Shape is another clue to how well a tree will fit the space you have available, what problems might occur, and how well it will help meet the goals you have for your property.



Columnar cultivars help adapt street trees to fit narrow spaces or avoid signs.

# What About Planters?

Under some urban conditions there is no alternative to planting trees in planters or containers. Because of the severe conditions of restricted space for roots and exposure to freezing, it is essential to use a container that is as broad and deep as space allows. Roots freeze more easily in narrow containers; the recommended minimum is 5 feet on the sides and 2 feet deep.

When considering using planters, recognize that regular, conscientious maintenance will be needed and that the tree's longevity will be relatively short, requiring replacement. Other tips:

- In dry weather during the growing season, water at a rate equivalent to 1 inch of rain per week.
- Slope the bottom slightly toward small-diameter drain tile or 1-inch plastic pipe with holes drilled in it. Wrap in filter pads to prevent clogging and cover with 1 inch of sand. If no outlet is possible, place tile over gravel to help remove excess water.
- To reduce weight and aid aeration, a soil mix of coarse sand, organic matter or perlite, and a small amount of loam soil is necessary. Ask an arborist or nursery specialist what is used locally.
- For most tree species, the soil pH should be between 6.0 and 7.0.
- To help keep tree size small, fertilize only if a nutrient deficiency is indicated (by leaf discoloration).



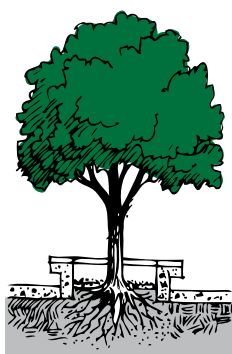
If you must use planters in a cold climate, it's best to use large ones with several trees. The earth mass helps protect the roots.

## SOME TREES THAT DO WELL IN PLANTERS

Crapemyrtle  
Dwarf Conifers

Dwarf Fruit Trees  
Holly

Japanese Maple  
Star Magnolia

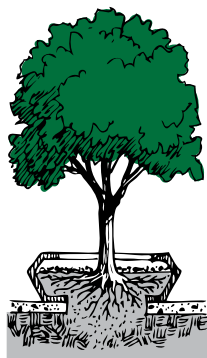


### GOOD

Seat-wall ground-level planter, planted at grade. This planter has a neat appearance, fair aeration and root room, is convenient to water, provides a place for people to sit,

and has a good sense of permanence. Trees planted in such a container are generally safe from snowmelt salt, are easy to mulch, and have normal frost tolerance. The container provides good drainage and offers a place to plant flowers.

**DISADVANTAGES:** These containers are expensive to build or buy, difficult to clean, may restrict pedestrian traffic, and may interfere with snow removal operations. Root constriction limits the number of species suitable for planting in the open-bottom container.



### DIFFICULT

Raised planter with open bottom, soil level raised not more than 1 foot above grade. This container is aesthetically pleasing, has excellent space definition, a strong sense of permanence, and provides

good drainage, a place for people to sit, and a place to plant flowers. Trees planted in this type of container are generally safe from snowmelt salt and are easy to water and mulch. Deep roots can penetrate well below the frost line.

**DISADVANTAGES:** These containers are expensive to install, are usually limited to outdoor use, and may interfere with snow removal operations and pedestrian traffic. There are a limited number of tree species suitable for planting in this type of container due to root restriction. Shallow feeder roots of trees may freeze, reducing tree life.



### MOST DIFFICULT

Closed-bottom container. This container is aesthetically pleasing, easy to install and move, provides a sitting area, and is relatively safe from snowmelt salt. Such containers provide good definition of

space and are readily available at known cost in a wide variety of sizes, shapes, materials, textures, and colors. Trees planted in these containers can be placed in almost any location; exotic species can be used indoors. Flowers can be planted in this container.

**DISADVANTAGES:** Trees planted in closed-bottom containers are highly susceptible to salt buildup from normal watering procedures (unless drainage holes are provided) and to root freezing. The containers can burst from winter freezing. Tree species suitable for planting in this container are very limited. It does not work in colder areas of the country.

— Adapted from *Containerized Trees for Urban Settings* by Jean E. Olson, Iowa State University.



# Right Trees and Urban Forestry Programs

All that has been said about selecting the right tree for the right place is as true for street, park, and public building plantings as it is for residential properties. In fact, mistakes at the community level are magnified many fold. The widespread planting of a disease-prone species or trees too large or too small along an avenue will eventually plague the taxpayers with costly maintenance bills.

Fortunately, communities served by an urban forester or arborist are usually assured that species are selected with great care. In fact, if a staff forester, arborist, or landscape architect is not employed by the municipality, it will pay great dividends to retain the service of a qualified consultant when planning for tree plantings. When such professionals are on staff, the ideal situation is to combine their expertise into a team. For example, the knowledge of a forester or arborist about the site requirements of a tree or its maintenance needs can often be joined with the artistic talents of a landscape architect and the infrastructure knowledge of a city engineer to produce a plan that is both workable and visually attractive.

## THE EDUCATION CHALLENGE

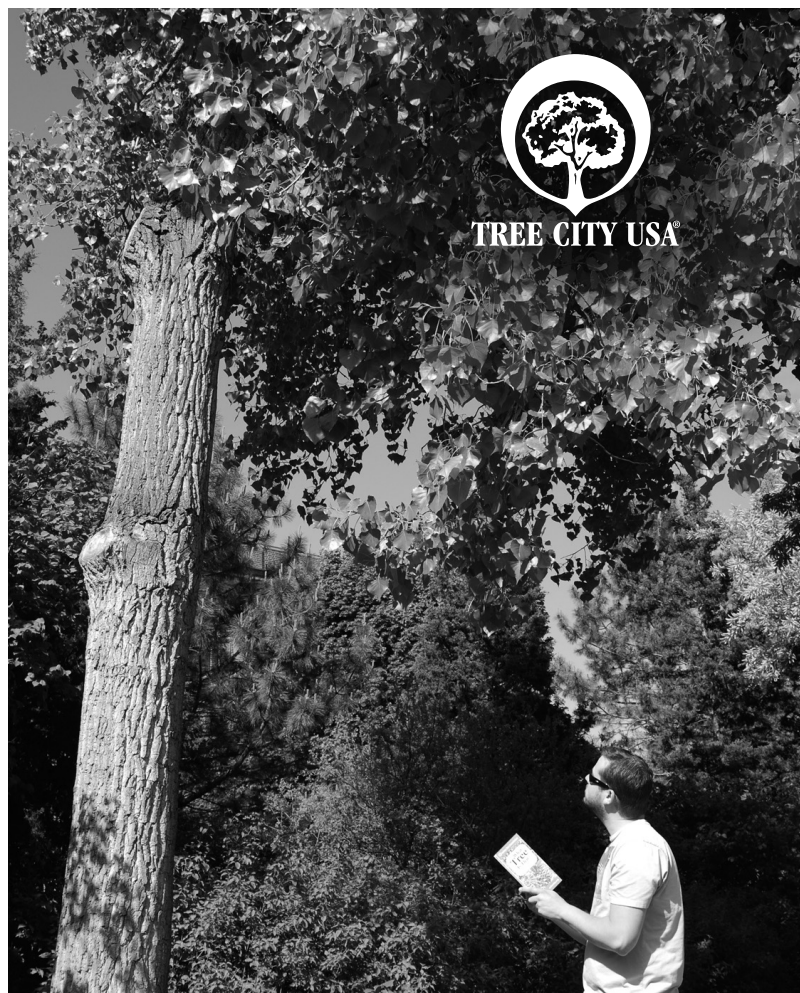
One of the challenges to all professionals is the large task of public education about trees. Helping homeowners and businesses start their trees correctly through careful selection and placement is one of the greatest needs in the wide spectrum of tree-care topics. It is preventive medicine at its best. Fortunately, there is much material available to help, including this bulletin. The need, however, is to (a) localize the information, and (b) get it into the hands of the people who need it.

Information needed in community literature includes lists that show:

- Species that thrive in the local climate, preferably arranged by tree characteristics and/or functions they best serve.
- Species to avoid because they are known to have persistent insect or disease problems or are sensitive to local air pollution.
- Species that are prohibited or discouraged — and the reasons why.
- Locations such as an arboretum, park, campus, or street where mature specimens of desirable species may be viewed.

Getting the information into the hands of people who can use it is not easy. Budget constraints are often the first problem but should not be allowed to stop the project. The publications that are illustrated above range from single-page fliers that can be duplicated at little cost on office equipment to elaborate multicolor booklets. Whatever the cost, the investment will repay taxpayers in the long run.

Distributing the publications should not be left to chance. The use of literature racks in the office or distribution at



Publicity about planting the right tree is essential to the long-term health of any community forest.

workshops reaches too few people. Door-to-door distribution in new developments, direct mail, and using local realtors, developers, and nursery operators are more effective ways to reach the entire population of tree owners.

## PLANNING AHEAD

In the urban forestry program, the best ideas for using the right trees in the right places can come undone when the desired planting stock is not available, is too expensive, or is the wrong size. One solution that sounds simple, but is rarely practiced was developed by the late Bob Skiera, former forester for the City of Milwaukee. Bob studied his streets and parks and planned for new plantings several years in advance. He then grew the needed stock in the city nursery and was assured of an adequate supply in his preferred size of 2-inch caliper. Similar arrangements could be made with contract suppliers and would give them the advantage of being sure of their future market. Either way, the result will be less reliance on chance and more precision in planting the right tree in the right place.

# Finding More Information ...

There is considerable help available for selecting the right tree for the right place. Sources include:

- Local tree selection guides available from city or state urban foresters.
- Publications produced by private and public utilities.
- Books on trees that include site requirements and characteristics at maturity.

A good place to start your search for more information is **arborday.org**. This is the official website of the Arbor Day Foundation and includes not only more materials related to Tree City USA Bulletin No. 4, but also additional tips on tree care, how to purchase trees online, and an online tree guide. The guide offers detailed information on dozens of commonly planted landscape trees that grow throughout the United States. Included for each is information on sun and soil requirements for planting, mature height and spread, growth rates, and more. For other sources of information about this topic, go to **arborday.org/bulletins**.



The right trees in a residential median not only beautify the neighborhood, but raise property values and help tame traffic as well.



Selecting the right trees for the right places will result in beautiful and safer streets such as this. Proper selection will also reduce maintenance costs and provide other practical benefits such as energy savings, prolonged life of pavement surfaces, and cleaner air.

## Tree City USA Bulletin ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

For a complete list of Tree City USA Bulletins, visit **arborday.org**.

	1 Issue \$3.00 ea.
1. How to Prune Young Trees	1. \$
2. When a Storm Strikes	2.
3. Solving Tree/Sidewalk Conflicts	3.
4. The Right Tree for the Right Place	4.
--- Tree City USA Annual Report	
TOTALS:	\$

Annual Friends of Tree City USA  
 Membership ..... \$15.00 \$  
 Tree City USA Bulletin 3-Ring Binder ..... \$7.95 \$  
 TOTAL PAYMENT: ..... \$

Order Tree City USA Bulletins online at **arborday.org** or send this form and mail with your payment to:

Arbor Day Foundation • 211 N. 12th Street • Lincoln, NE 68508  
 888-448-7337 • (Make checks payable to Arbor Day Foundation)

1925 101

### THE TREE CITY USA PROGRAM IS SPONSORED BY THE

Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters. To achieve the national recognition of being named as a Tree City USA, a town or city must meet four standards:

- Standard 1: A tree board or department
- Standard 2: A tree care ordinance
- Standard 3: A community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita
- Standard 4: An Arbor Day observance and proclamation

Each recognized community receives a Tree City USA flag, plaque, and community entrance signs. Towns and cities of every size can qualify. Tree City USA application forms are available from your state forester, the Arbor Day Foundation at **arborday.org/treecity**, or your state forestry agency.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF: J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co. (page 5), Boise Community Forestry, James R. Fazio (page 8).

**SPANISH LANGUAGE EDITION** A one-page summary of Tree City USA Bulletin No. 4 in Spanish is available at no cost. Call Member Services at 888-448-7337 or go online to **arborday.org/bulletins** to obtain a copy.



**BURLINGAME BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION**  
**Final Minutes February 6, 2025**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Beautification Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Batte.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Batte, Commissioners Bauer, Chu, and Damico, Kirchner  
Absent: None  
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director Glomstad, Parks Superintendent/City Arborist Holtz, Parks Supervisor Burow, and Recording Secretary Flores  
Others: None

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Bauer made a motion to approve the December 5, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chu and was approved. 5-0

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Constance Quirk, resident of Lexington Way, expressed her desire to have the emailed Correspondence and Public Comments read aloud at all public meetings to ensure the live audience is made aware of other residents' concerns. Further, she would like online viewers to have the option of participating in the meeting by raising their hands and being allowed to make comments or ask questions. She believes it is important to get people involved and their voices heard, and she feels that many barriers have been put in place to prevent this from happening.

**PRESENTATION**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Chair Rotation**

Secretary Flores presented the staff report. The Commissioners accepted their new roles and Chair Chu led the proceedings for the remainder of the meeting.

**2. Business Landscape Award, Residential Sustainable Landscape Award, and Multi-Family Landscape Award Chair Rotation**

Secretary Flores presented the staff report. Commissioner Kirchner accepted his role as Committee Chair and Commissioner Damico as Vice Chair.



### **3. Public Hearing to Consider an Appeal of the City Arborist's Approval of the Removal of a Protected Private Tree at 1325 El Camino Real**

Arborist Holtz presented the staff report. He explained that the request originally came in for three trees growing between 1321 and 1325 El Camino Real, with the majority of the trunk and canopy residing on 1325 El Camino Real. He confirmed that the middle tree was undersized and not subject to the permit requirements specified in our Municipal Tree Ordinance. The applicant commented on his concern about the risk of failure due to structural tree issues. An independent arborist report was submitted as supplementary documentation. Based on Arborist Holtz's site observations of the trees and the impact to the driveway at the rear of 1325 El Camino Real, it appeared that the trees met the threshold for removal. He explained his observations of the poor form and location of the trees and stated that the neighborhood impact was not significant although it did impact the view from 1321 El Camino Real. Arborist Holtz summarized the findings of the independent arborist. Further, he explored the site history and conditions dating back to 2011, before the development of 1321 El Camino Real, and the continual pruning away from that site, increasing the off-balance growth of the trees. The reasons listed above meet the criteria for removal of our Tree Ordinance.

Arborist Holtz stated the City received two appeals to his decision to approve the removal of the trees. He explained there are many reasons to retain Coast Live Oak Trees and that decisions to approve the removal of trees are never made lightly. He spoke of the benefits these trees are to 1321 El Camino Real, such as barriers to light and noise pollution. Although the City requires replacement trees to be planted, it will not replace mature and established trees equally. These were the primary reasons listed on the appeals.

Chair Chu opened the floor to Public Comment. Seeing none, he closed Public Comment.

Property owners of 1321 El Camino Real, Scott and Martha Ann Milliken, spoke of their appeal to the City Arborist's decision. They stated that the trees were located entirely within their property, not on both sides of the property line. They provided construction drawings and a site map showing their property's trees. They explained that care and adjustments were made during construction to protect the trees and perform routine yearly maintenance. They expressed their belief that if 1325 El Camino Real maintained the trees on their side of the property, it may have resulted in similar looking trees on both sides. Further, they explained that having the trees remain is an important part of their tenants' quality of life. The Milliken's asked the Commission to consider an effective maintenance plan for 1325 El Camino Real instead of their removal.

The 1321 El Camino Real tenants Mia and Gunther Nacke presented their appeal. They explained the trees were a reason to live in the townhouse and their unit specifically. Mrs. Nacke researched previous appeals and noted that a high-risk factor was common in the denied appeals. She stated that in the 10 years they have resided at 1321 El Camino Real, they have not seen any tree maintenance conducted by 1325 El Camino Real. Ms. Nacke spoke of a different tree to the east of their unit that they were more concerned about during storms, unlike the trees closest to their unit. It would dramatically change their environment and ask that a maintenance plan be considered first. Mr. Nacke stated that he was a general contractor, and his comments stem from technical and engineering perspectives. He stated that the trees are very stable and do not pose a danger. He agreed that there is little space to drive through on the neighboring property but stated that the rear resident confirmed it is not as big of an issue as the fence at the front of the property. Also, it is his understanding that the tree struck by the car occurred due to space limitation, which is no longer an issue. Mr. Nacke shared his belief that the current driveway issues could be handled with minor

repairs. Also, he spoke of the current benefits to the ecosystem and the negative impact of removing the trees, such as a dramatic change to the atmosphere, including noise pollution, and its impacts on wildlife and young families.

The original applicant and owner of 1325 El Camino Real, Mehdi Shahmirza, stated that he had not previously been made aware of the site map showing the location of the trees not on his property but on 1321 El Camino Real. He explained that the trees are in his driveway and that tree growth will eliminate access to the driveway and important clearances, such as fire truck access. He spoke of his desire for removal due to safety concerns and explained that he also enjoys the Oak trees' beauty. Mr. Shahmirza stated he is happy to plant more trees on his property or at 1321 El Camino Real if preferred.

Chair Chu opened the floor to Commission Discussion.

Chair Chu stated that ownership of the trees needed to be established before any decision could be made and asked to see the construction drawings. Director Glomstad explained that a certified site survey would be necessary to confirm the location of the trees rather than a site plan. Arborist Holtz explained that the evidence of construction drawings that included a site plan was only now being introduced, and the City did not have any information to verify property lines. He stated that if the trees were located at 1321 El Camino Real, the liability of the trees failing would also reside with them. Commissioner Kirchner asked whether a civil engineer drew the drawings being presented. Mr. & Mrs. Milliken confirmed they were and had previously been submitted to the Planning and Building Department for review and approval.

Commissioner Kirchner asked whether a neighbor could petition to have trees removed that are not on his property. Arborist Holtz confirmed that they would not be able to. He explained that while conducting a site visit, the trees would appear to be on 1325 El Camino Real because the site improvements were completed on the opposite side of the trees, leading a person to conclude the property lines exist where the improvements stopped. Commissioner Kirchner inquired whether 1325 El Camino Real would be subject to the 25% pruning restriction to mitigate any potential issue. Arborist Holtz confirmed that the general rule when it comes to trees on property lines is that the neighbors can prune up to 25% of the tree so long as it does not structurally alter or destabilize the tree. He explained that 1325 El Camino Real could trim up to 25% of the canopy, but seeing as 80% of the canopy hangs over their property, they would not be able to achieve the same type of clearance as 1321 El Camino Real.

Chair Chu asked whether the continued pruning and maintenance on 1321 would encourage growth over 1325 El Camino Real to look more balanced. Arborist Holtz said the trees have been regularly directionally pruned away from 1321 El Camino Real toward 1325 El Camino Real, creating significant flaws. He stated that continued pruning to train it back could work, but it is not within the Commission's or Staff's purview to require anyone to comply.

Commissioner Damico asked why it was not previously possible for 1321 El Camino Real to prune on the other side of the trees to reduce any risk of future toppling. Arborist Holtz stated that many appeals are emotion based and stem from neighbor issues. He confirmed that many scenarios could occur if neighbors communicated and worked together to remedy the situation without involving the City. He explained that 1321 El Camino Real would need permission from 1325 El Camino Real to enter the property, but 1325 El Camino Real was not obligated to allow someone to trespass on their property. He understands that 1321 El Camino Real has directionally pruned their side of the trees, expecting that 1325 El Camino Real would

prune their side. There is no obligation for either property owner to take any action, but the liability would lie with the property owner of the site where the tree trunk is located. Furthermore, if 1325 El Camino Real believes the trees impede access, it becomes a civil issue between both property owners. Commissioner Damico referenced the photograph provided, which shows an SUV that narrowly fits, and expressed her concern about safety vehicles being able to get through. City Arborist Holtz agreed with Commissioner Damico but pointed out that the wheels of the SUV are on 1321 El Camino Real and a surveyor would need to verify where the property line lies and whether access to the rear of the property at 1325 El Camino Real is at all possible, barring a lack of easement agreement.

Commissioner Kirchner asked whether the trees would heal from the vehicular damage they had endured. Arborist Holtz confirmed that Oak trees were very good compartmentalizers of decay; however, every impact introduces the potential for decay or can be a terminal disease such as sudden oak death. Commissioner Bauer asked whether there was any imminent danger. City Arborist Holtz stated that he did not view anything that would prompt the evacuation of a home. He viewed the site conditions and what is stated in the City's Municipal Code and determined that the challenges with the tree outweighed the benefits of retaining them. He understood and agreed that there would be a large impact on 1321 El Camino Real and that his decision was not made lightly. Chair Chu and Arborist Holtz agreed that if the ownership of the trees belongs to 1321 El Camino Real and they decided to retain them, the liability that has been confirmed by the public notice of increased risk of the trees, the professional assessment that was conducted, and the City agreeing that the trees meet the threshold for removal would fall on them as well. Commissioner Batte asked whether the ownership of the trees was still in question. Director Glomstad suggested that the item be returned to the Commission once a survey has been presented to confirm ownership.

Mr. Shahmirza addressed the Commission and stated that he had not previously seen the 1321 El Camino Real drawings showing the trees on their property. Commissioner Bauer asked whether he had a survey demonstrating the trees on his property. Mr. Shahmirza did not currently have a survey of his property.

Mr. Milliken asked whether Mr. Shahmirza had permission to cut more than 25% of the tree canopy. Arborist Holtz confirmed that trimming more than 25% would be considered excessive pruning and require a permit. The active permit could be modified to an excessive pruning permit, but would require permission from whoever is determined to be the owner.

Chair Chu asked what documentation could be obtained to verify ownership. Director Glomstad stated that an official or certified site survey would be needed to verify property lines. Secretary Flores stated that either property owner could also research the property's public records filed with the Building and Planning Departments to see if a survey was previously filed and formally request copies. Chair Chu asked whether the smallest of the three trees was protected by diameter size and was a protected species. Arborist Holtz confirmed the City does not have protected species, only tree size. However, Oak and Redwood trees typically require an independent arborist report as supplemental documentation for their permit application because both species can live a long time and are significant contributors to our community.

Commissioner Damico asked whether the two owners had discussed shared maintenance responsibilities of the trees. The properties shared offline feedback. Arborist Holtz shared that the City pays for conflict resolution services through the County of San Mateo and is available at no cost to Burlingame residents.



Commissioner Bauer made a motion to postpone any decision until further evidence of ownership is provided by either the applicant or appellant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Damico and was approved. 5-0

#### **4. Themed Block Discussion**

Arborist Holtz presented the staff report. He provided a history and background on themed blocks and spoke of the Easton Drive petition that occurred approximately a year and a half ago. He confirmed that the current discussion did not include Easton Drive but focused on themed blocks in general. He explained that a themed block is an area with one defined species, either already established or a shift over time, but clarified that the City is not clear-cutting trees to plant any specific tree. He spoke of the challenges themed blocks posed, such as lack of species diversification, utility conflict, and maintenance cost. Although there are main issues to consider, he does not believe we will experience devastation such as a pest attack in the near future. Arborist Holtz explained that the item presented today is an introduction for Commissioners to ask questions and request additional information or ideas from staff about possible modifications. Further, he stated that out of the 938 blocks in Burlingame, 122 of them are themed blocks. Of the 122 themed blocks, 70 have utilities. He estimated that a quarter of the trees planted in the City are in utility conflicts.

Commissioner Bauer inquired about the replacement options for themed block streets. Arborist Holtz confirmed that they only have one dominant species per themed block, although changes have been made to those dominant species in some circumstances, such as the pear trees on California Drive. He explained that the Commission was being introduced to the challenges staff have experienced. Commissioner Batte asked if there was a tree that was less likely to interfere with utilities. Arborist Holtz stated that the trees on the City's Primary Utility Plant List present the lowest potential for utility conflicts. Commissioner Batte commented on the recent fires in Southern California, which were partly caused by utility conflicts. Arborist Holtz stated that staff have received many phone calls and correspondence from residents regarding similar fears set off by insurance cancellation notices. Chair Chu asked whether there has been a consideration for having a themed block with utilities and one species for the side of the street and another for the other. According to his knowledge, Arborist Holtz confirmed that it had not occurred previously in the City. Commissioner Kirchner asked if PG&E was involved in the pruning of the trees. Arborist Holtz confirmed that PG&E contracts with different utility companies and is required to maintain a certain distance. They will prune trees to meet those requirements, often exceeding the requirements to avoid having to prune as frequently. He stated that City staff also prune trees to address overhanging branches or water sprouts that may impede pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Supervisor Burow confirmed that the clearance required by PG&E in the City's area is two and a half feet, but trees are often pruned 12-15 feet away to avoid coming out for a minimum of two years. Further, she stated that pruning such large amounts causes water sprouts to grow much faster, an issue requiring annual inspection.

Commissioner Damico asked whether the staff had received any positive feedback from themed blocks. Arborist Holtz stated that correspondence has been received in favor of themed blocks' majestic look and feel. Commissioner Bauer asked about correspondence from Newlands resident Cathy Baylock and whether her block was removed from the themed block list. Arborist Holtz explained that the Newlands block was inexplicably dropped off the themed block list by error but that the mistake was well-noted and has been updated on our list. Commissioner Damico asked how specific themes are picked. City Arborist Holtz explained that the framers of the City chose species during development, and the Commission, at the time of adoption, decided whether to continue with the established dominant species or replace it with a similar species with the same look or feel.

Chair Chu opened Public Comment.

Burlingame resident Kristine Cannon stated that she lives on the 1300 Themed Block of Bernal Ave, which is sycamore Themed. She spoke highly of the tree maintenance performed by the City and the responsiveness of staff when residents reach out to them. She spoke in favor of themed blocks and the Sycamore tree theme. She explained that homes are purchased with the knowledge of the City-owned and maintained trees adjacent to the property, and because they like the uniformity it creates with the rest of the street, not because they want the tree species changed. She admitted that there is always a chance of issues arising, such as the Eucalyptus trees on Easton Drive, but strongly supports themed blocks regardless. She thanked the Commission for its attention to the Themed Block policy and hoped they would vote to keep the parameters as they are when it comes time to vote on a decision.

Resident Constance Quirck spoke in favor of themed blocks. She urged the Commission to keep the immediate area near Lexington Way as a heritage grove of Sycamore trees. She said the established themes and mature trees were key factors in purchasing a Burlingame home. The City works diligently to maintain the City street trees and she appreciates the Parks Division for their hard work. She explained that many trees have been removed in the last five years because local zoning control has been negatively impacted in California, and keeping large, themed trees softens the aesthetics of the City. She spoke of the Plant-A-Tree program and how she learned the need for and importance of deep-watering young trees to ensure their growth, such as the 10-year-old Sycamore she has in front of her property.

Burlingame resident and Historical Society member Jennifer Pfaff spoke in favor of themed blocks. She provided a history of how tree species were determined and planted in the 1900s and how the choice of replacement trees stemmed from the hope that the residents would be more invested in the trees' watering needs. She stated that themed blocks comprise less than a quarter of the City's streets and are typically intersected by non-themed streets, providing some diversity. The importance of the City's Themed Block policy could not be understated. They are memorable City assets that strengthen the visual cohesiveness of many neighborhoods. She spoke of the extensive development on lots that leave little room for landscaping and trees, such as the last two homes that were approved through the Site Development process that are not required to plant any trees because there is no space to do so; making the importance of our City street trees much higher than it has ever been.

Chair Chu closed Public Comment and Commission discussion ensued.

Commissioner Kirchner spoke of his fondness of the themed streets and stated his inclination to keep the Themed Block Policy and its parameters as is. He spoke of the historical aspects of themed blocks and does not believe any modification is necessary. He would like staff to elaborate on the issue and more information about the themed streets facing utility conflicts. He agreed with Chair Chu on exploring different options for those blocks and the sides of the street affected.

Commissioner Bauer inquired whether the topic arose as an informational session or whether action to remove themed block designations was the end goal. Arborist Holtz confirmed that aside from public comments staff received, Council Member Brownrigg expressed concern about our practice of planting large canopy trees under utility lines and them becoming a perennial conflict. If the Commission would like more information on any challenge presented, staff can research and bring it back to the Commission for

review and consideration. The Commission may also feel that no further discussion is needed. Commissioner Bauer asked whether Carol Avenue was a themed street. Arborist Holtz confirmed that although the Palm trees are designated as historic trees, Carol is not a themed block nor are Palm trees planted by the City as new or replacement trees. Commissioner Kirchner explained that Carol Avenue was developed in 1905, and the Palm trees were there before the homes.

City Arborist Holtz explained that the City owns and maintains approximately 17,000 trees, 2,600 being themed trees, amounting to 15% of City trees being dedicated to Themed trees. Further, 3,740 trees are located under utilities, 600 being themed areas. Chair Chu reiterated the option of having two different species of trees where there are utility lines on one side. He stated that having large trees under utility lines kept pruned may create a bad example for residents who do not know they are pruned that way due to the utility conflicts and may lead them to believe they are approved pruning practices.

Director Glomstad confirmed with the Commission that they would like staff to bring back options and ideas focused on utility conflicts and themed blocks. Arborist Holtz emphasized that the public has expressed a desire to be more informed when making decisions that affect them, which increases the amount of public outreach on this topic.

## **REPORTS**

Supervisor Burow reported that tree plantings as part of our seasonal street tree plantings are steadily on the rise, and there has also been an increase in plantings in new locations that either have not had a tree in a long time or have never had one.

Arborist Holtz stated that city trees are holding up well in the current weather events we've experienced and thanked the Commission and Council for investing in the major preventive tree work to protect our community.

Director Glomstad explained that the rule of no longer reading public comments out loud during Commission meetings came directly from the City Council and cannot be changed at a Commission level.

Commissioner Kirchner provided the Commission and staff drafts of the new *Trees of Burlingame* publication for review, edits, and feedback.

## **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

Director Glomstad confirmed Themed Blocks, with guidance provided by the Commission, will be back on a future agenda.

Chair Chu said he would like the Adopt-a-Tree program discussed at a future meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m. The next Beautification Commission meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Flores

Veronica Flores

Recording Secretary