

# Enhancing the City's Tree Canopy

Discussion on Strategies



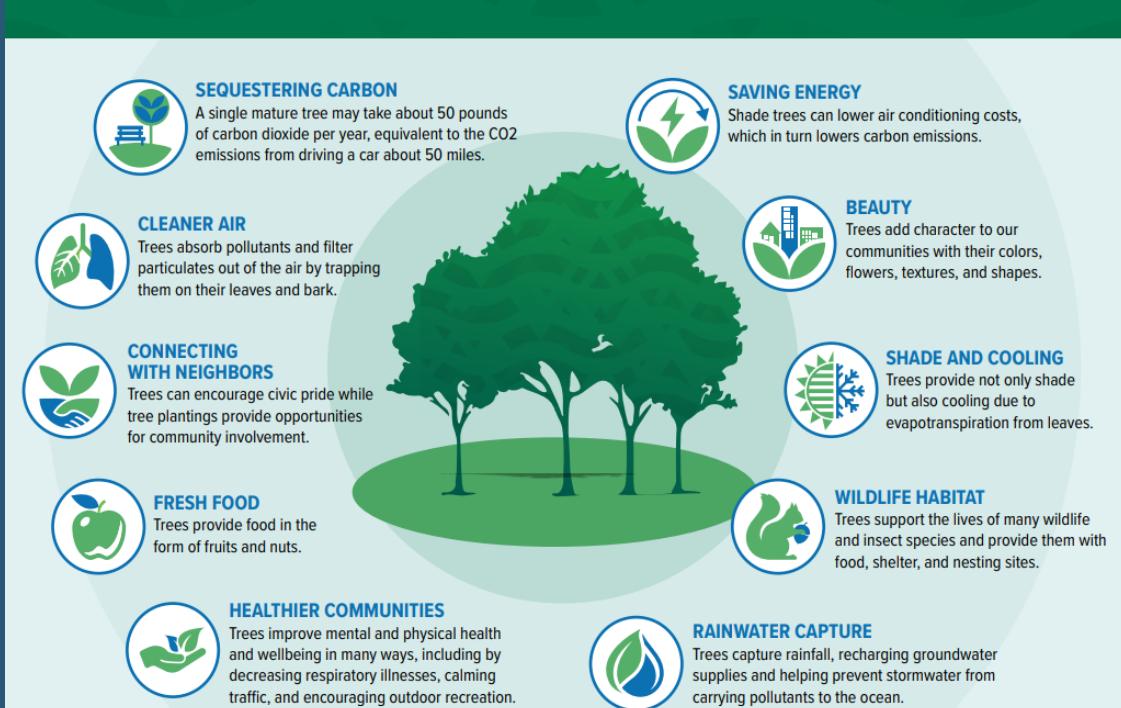
REDONDO  
BEACH

City Council Meeting  
December 9, 2025

# Background

- Strategic Plan Item
- Tree Protection Ordinance - 2023
- Tree Canopy Benefits

## Benefits of Trees



## Why Trees Are So Cool

Experts say trees should be considered urban infrastructure, every bit as important and useful as sewage, drinking water and transportation systems. They are an important tool for cities to reduce urban heat island effects. Here are a few ways trees benefit our urban environments:

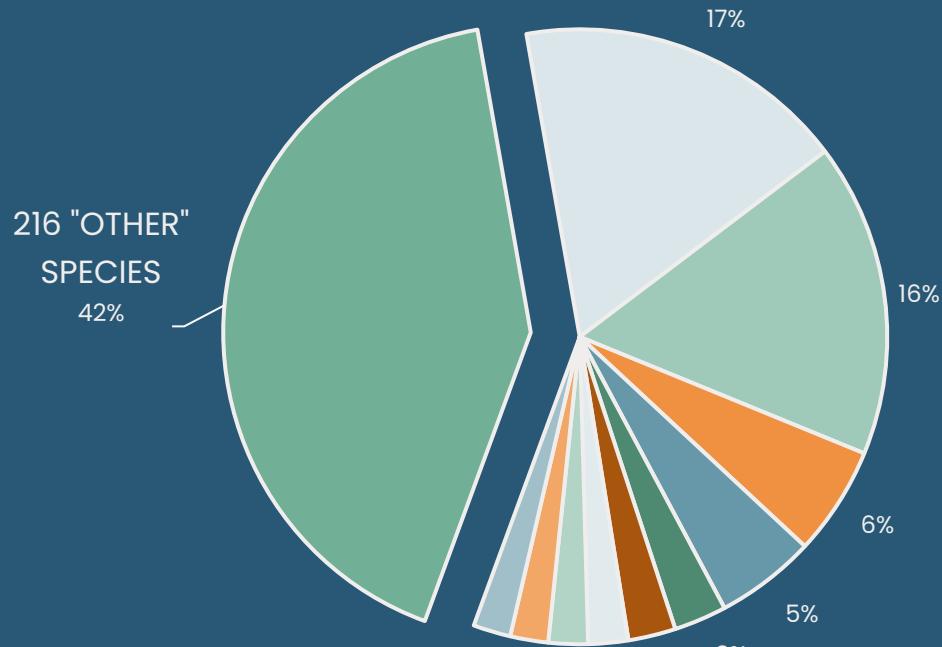
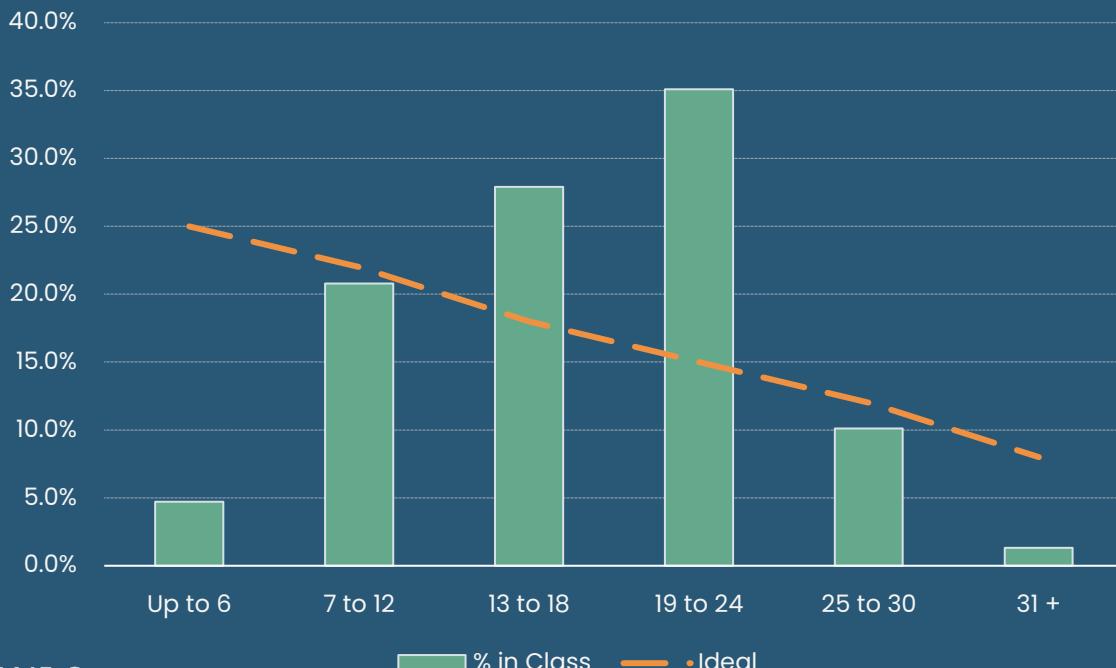
- By intercepting and absorbing rain, they reduce stormwater runoff.
- They absorb and store carbon dioxide.
- In a process known as **evapotranspiration**, trees take up water from the ground and release it through the surface of their leaves, cooling the surrounding air.
- By creating shade for buildings, they can reduce energy demand, which also reduces waste heat from air conditioners.
- They can help clean the air by taking in air pollutants.
- They block sunlight, helping to keep the ground below cool.

The illustration shows a large green tree in an urban setting with buildings in the background. A green arrow labeled "CO<sub>2</sub>" points from the tree towards the ground, indicating carbon dioxide absorption. A woman is walking under the tree's shade, which is shown as a cool green area. A thermometer on the ground shows a drop in temperature, illustrating the tree's cooling effect. A circular arrow around the tree indicates its role in the water cycle. Rain is shown falling on the tree, and a red arrow points from the tree to the ground, representing stormwater runoff reduction.

# Redondo Beach Urban Forest

- Over 11,300 City Owned Trees
- Broad Species Diversity
- Age Distribution Balance

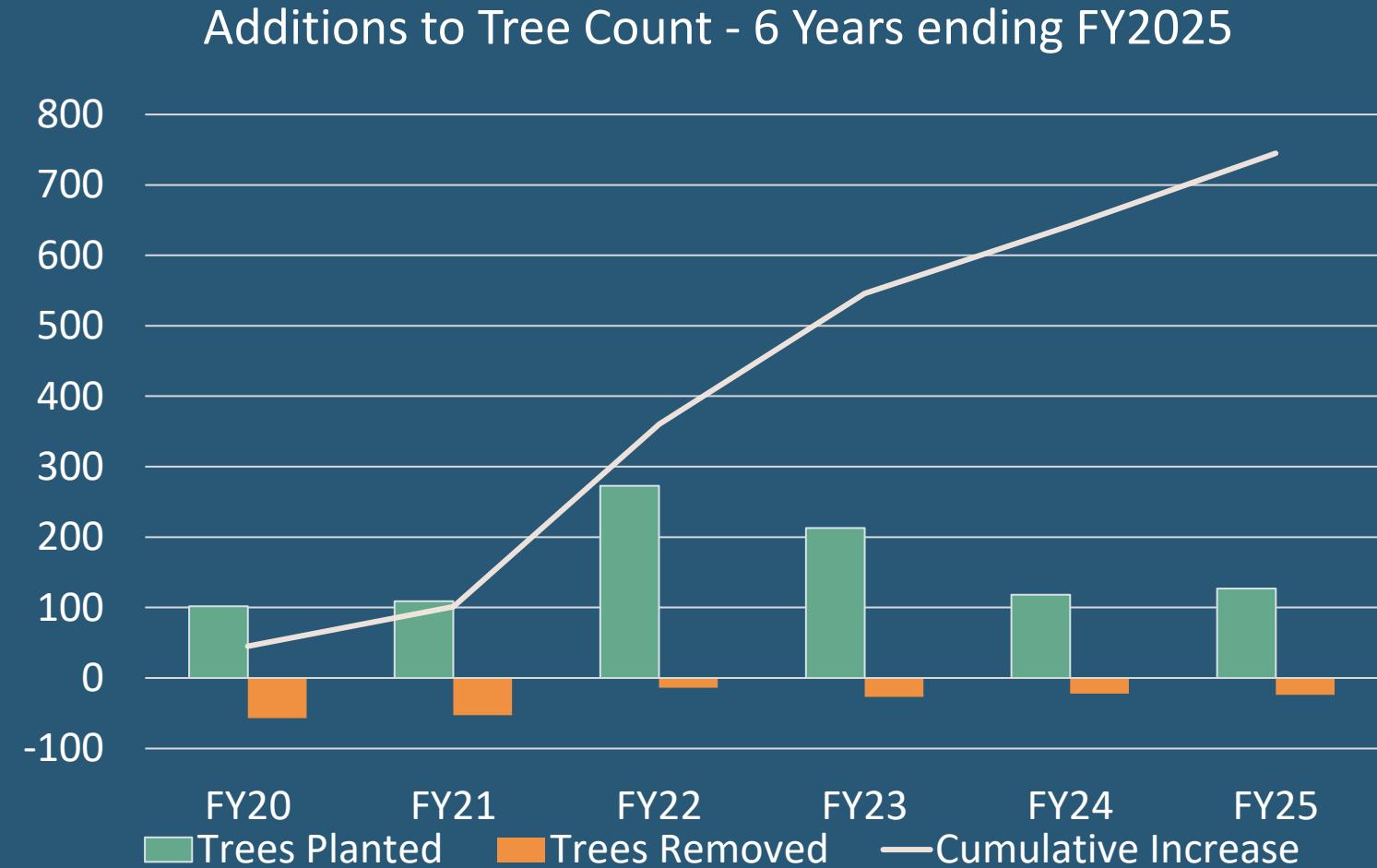
RB City Trees - 2025 Trunk Diameter Distribution



TOP TEN SPECIES	Total	Pct.
MEXICAN FAN PALM (Washingtonia robusta)	1,986	17.48%
SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA (Magnolia grandiflora)	1,874	16.49%
CHINESE ELM (Ulmus parvifolia)	652	5.74%
NEW ZEALAND CHRISTMAS TREE (Metrosideros excelsa)	599	5.27%
KING PALM (Archontophoenix cunninghamiana)	315	2.77%
CRAPE MYRTLE (Lagerstroemia indica)	284	2.50%
BRAZILIAN PEPPER (Schinus terbinthifolius)	238	2.09%
CARROTWOOD (Cupaniopsis anacardiooides)	236	2.08%
CAJEPUT TREE (Melaleuca quinquenervia)	227	2.00%
BRISBANE BOX (Lophostemon confertus)	223	1.96%
"OTHER" SPECIES	4,730	41.62%
<b>Total Trees</b>	<b>11,364</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Redondo Beach Urban Forest

- Planted nearly 1000 trees in last 6 years
- Removed just under 200 trees in last 6 year
- Average annual net increase of ~125 trees
- ~ 11,350 City Trees



# City Owned Trees

- Tree Protection Ordinance
- Approved Species List
- Standard of Care – Policy Manual
- Planting Programs



## RBMC §5-11

### Chapter 11 TREE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION

- § 5-11.01 Purpose.
- § 5-11.02 Definitions.
- § 5-11.03 Public trees—Prohibited activities.
- § 5-11.04 Public trees—Non-development requests to remove.
- § 5-11.05 Public trees—Development related requests to remove.
- § 5-11.06 Protection of public trees during construction.
- § 5-11.07 Public trees—Exemptions.
- § 5-11.08 Public trees—Violations and penalties.
- § 5-11.09 Public trees—Fee schedule.
- § 5-11.10 Public trees—Appeals.
- § 5-11.11 Public trees—Lists of favored and disfavored trees.
- § 5-11.12 Public trees—Policies and guidelines.

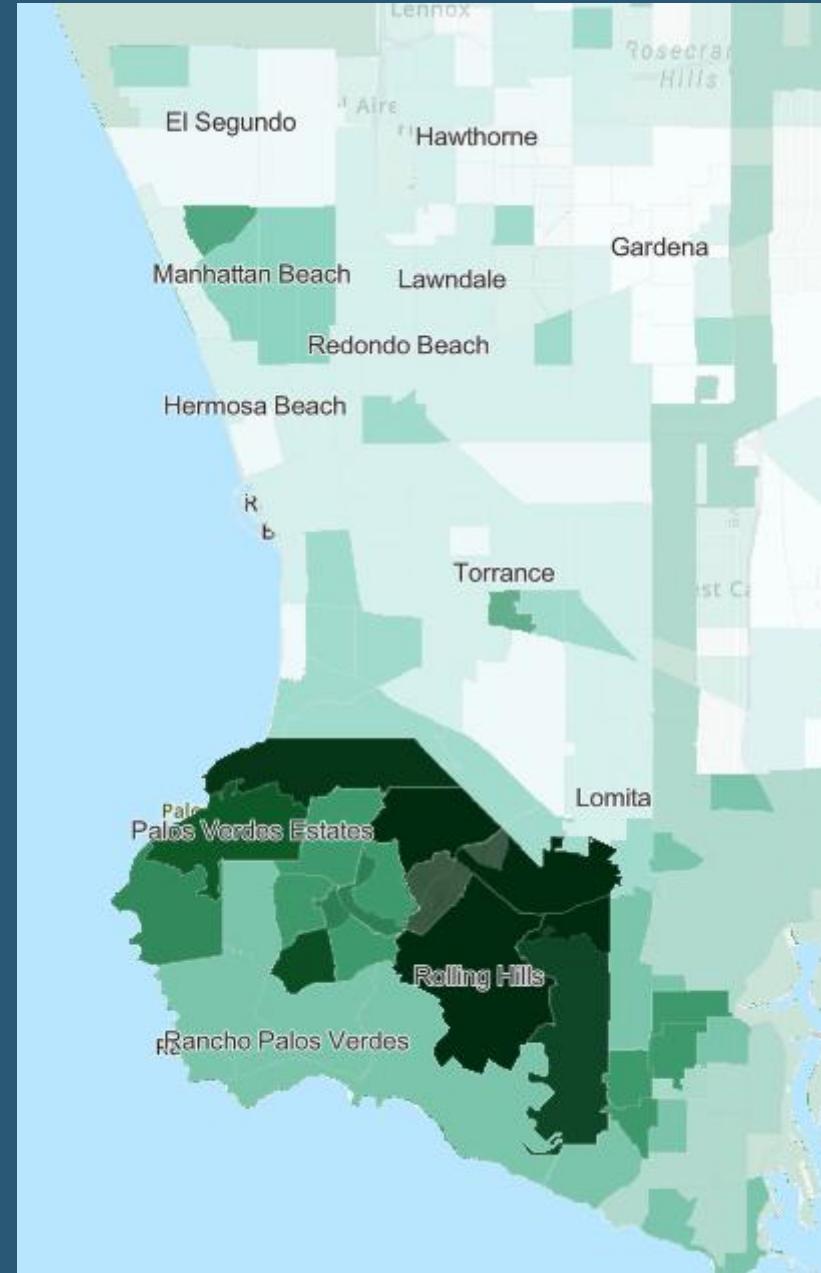
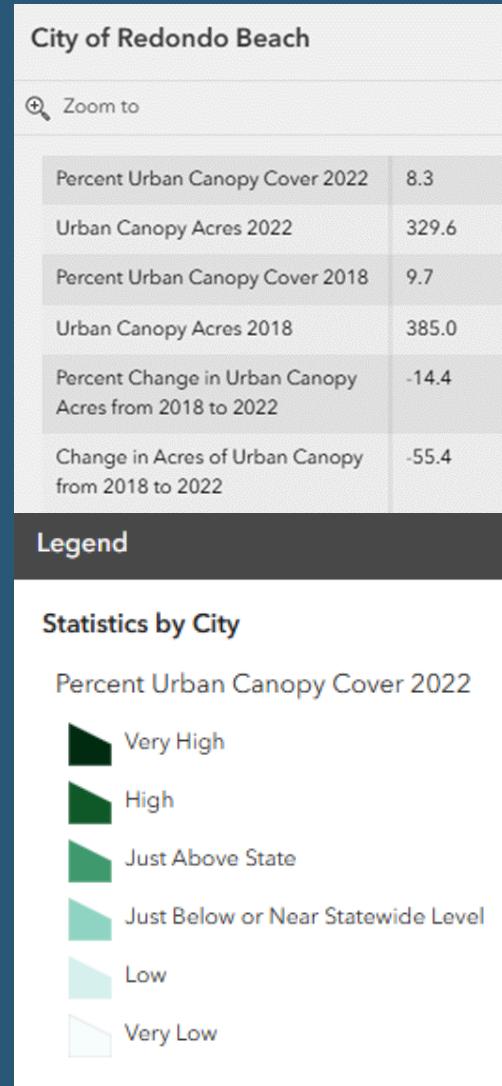
#### § 5-11.01 Purpose.

Tree protection and preservation is necessary for the health and welfare of the City. Trees are a valuable natural resource which help define the character of the City, and provide many social, economic, and aesthetic benefits worthy of protection in order to preserve the scenic beauty, prevent soil erosion, provide shade, and reduce stormwater runoff.



# RB Canopy Coverage

- USDA/USFS data available
- Need Refinement as a first step before setting goals and timelines



# Privately Owned Trees

- Development Opportunities / Conditions
- Preservation Requirements
- Necessary Partnership

Land Use	Parcel Count
Single Family Residential	8,268
2-3 Unit Residential	3,512
4 or More Unit Residential	1,520
Mixed Use Residential/Commercial	41
<b>Sum Residential</b>	<b>13,341</b>
<b>Commercial</b>	<b>616</b>
<i>Industrial</i>	<i>78</i>
<i>Institutional</i>	<i>85</i>
Parks and Open Space	67
Utility and Open Space	23
<b>Sum Open Space</b>	<b>90</b>
Utility	44
Vacant	83
<b>Total Parcels</b>	<b>14,337</b>



**Preservation**  
Trees in good condition, suitable for preservation and of appropriate species receive 200% credit based on their existing canopy area.



**Planting**  
The calculated mature canopy area of all trees planted receive canopy credit, native trees receive credit for 125% of their mature canopy area.



**Fee-in-Lieu**  
A fee can be paid for planting or preserving trees elsewhere.



**Discretionary Review**  
Innovative, alternate development proposals that provide equivalent environmental benefits' (hydrological, climate or wildlife) can be used instead of planting or preservation.

Options for meeting the tree canopy requirements.



American Planning Association

Property Type	Area - Acres
City ROW	894
City Owned Parcels	185
<b>Sum City Area</b>	<b>1079</b>
<b>Privately Owned Parcels</b>	<b>2932</b>
<b>TOTAL AREA IN CITY</b>	<b>4010</b>
<b>Percentage City Controlled</b>	<b>27%</b>

# Potential Tools to Enhance Canopy

- Continue to assess, quantify & monitor City trees
- Increase public engagement and education
- Publish best practices / design guidelines
- Improve user friendliness of City materials and resources
- Continue to plant new trees in appropriate vacant locations
- Work with community partners to promote awareness and enhance volunteer efforts
- Create a donation program
- Establish development incentives for tree planting and preservation

# RECOMMENDATION

Receive and File information on the City's Tree Canopy practices and policies, and provide direction to staff on additional tools to enhance the City's tree inventory