

**CITY OF REDONDO BEACH
PUBLIC WORKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AGENDA
Monday, September 22, 2025**

415 DIAMOND STREET, REDONDO BEACH

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION - 7:00 PM**

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- 1) Public comments can be entered before and during the meeting.
- 2) Select a SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM to enter your comment;
- 3) Public will be prompted to Sign-Up to create a free personal account (one-time) and then comments may be added to each Agenda item of interest.
- 4) Public comments entered into eComment (up to 2200 characters; equal to approximately 3 minutes of oral comments) will become part of the official meeting record.

EMAIL: TO PARTICIPATE BY WRITTEN COMMUNICATION WITH ATTACHED DOCUMENTS BEFORE 3PM DAY OF MEETING:

Written materials that include attachments pertaining to matters listed on the posted agenda

received after the agenda has been published will be added as supplemental materials under the relevant agenda item. Jesse.Reyes@redondo.org

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - 7:00 PM

- A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- B. ROLL CALL**
- C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**
- D. APPROVE ORDER OF AGENDA**
- E. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS - ADDITIONAL BACK UP MATERIALS**

Blue folder items are additional back up material to administrative reports and/or public comments received after the printing and distribution of the agenda packet for receive and file.

- E.1. [BLUE FOLDER](#)**

- F. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Business items, except those formally noticed for public hearing, or discussion are assigned to the Consent Calendar. The Commission Members may request that any Consent Calendar item(s) be removed, discussed, and acted upon separately. Items removed from the Consent Calendar will be taken up under the "Excluded Consent Calendar" section below. Those items remaining on the Consent Calendar will be approved in one motion following Oral Communications.

- F.1. [APPROVE AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING](#)**

- F.2. [APPROVE THE PUBLIC WORKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 25, 2025 REGULAR MEETING](#)**

- G. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

- H. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

This section is intended to provide members of the public with the opportunity to comment on any subject that does not appear on this agenda for action. This section is limited to 30 minutes. Each speaker will be afforded three minutes to address the Commission. Each speaker will be permitted to speak only once. Written requests, if any, will be considered first under this section.

- H.1. [PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS](#)**

- I. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS**

- J. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION**

- J.1. [DISCUSSION ON STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING THE CITY'S TREE CANOPY](#)**

- K. COMMISSION MEMBER ITEMS AND FUTURE COMMISSION AGENDA TOPICS**

- L. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting of the Redondo Beach Public Works and Sustainability Commission will be a regular meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on October 27, 2025, in the Redondo Beach Council Chambers, at 415 Diamond Street,

Redondo Beach, California.

It is the intention of the City of Redondo Beach to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 318-0656 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible. Please advise us at that time if you will need accommodations to attend or participate in meetings on a regular basis.

An agenda packet is available 24 hours at www.redondo.org under the City Clerk.



Administrative Report

E.1., File # PWS25-0624

Meeting Date: 9/22/2025

TITLE
BLUE FOLDER



Administrative Report

F.1., File # PWS25-0628

Meeting Date: 9/22/2025

TITLE

APPROVE AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
MEETING

PROOF OF POSTING

I, Jessica Handlin, hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that I am over the age of 18 years and am employed by the City of Redondo Beach, and that the following document:

Agenda Dated September 22, 2025

of the Public Works and Sustainability Commission
(City Council/Board/Commission/Committee)

was posted by me at the following locations (s) on the date and hour noted below:

Posted on: September 18, 2025 at 5:30 pm
(date) (hour)

Posted at: DOOR "1" BULLETIN BOARD

and at CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Jessica Handlin, Analyst

09/18/2025
Date



Administrative Report

F.2., File # PWS25-0632

Meeting Date: 9/22/2025

TITLE

APPROVE THE PUBLIC WORKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 25, 2025 REGULAR MEETING



Minutes
Regular Meeting
Public Works and Sustainability Commission – 7 P.M.
Monday, July 28, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Redondo Beach Public Works and Sustainability Commission and Budget and Finance Commission was called to order by Chair Arrata at 7:00 P.M., in the City Hall Council Chambers, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California, and teleconference.

B. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Simpson, Anderson, Beeli, Chair Arrata

Commissioners Absent: Bajaj, Nafissi, Tsao

Officials Present: Lauren Sablan, City Engineer
Ryan Liu, Principal Traffic Engineer
Jesse Reyes, Capital Projects Program Manager/PWSC
Liaison

C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Anderson led the Commissioners in a salute to the flag.

D. APPROVE ORDER OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Beeli, to approve the order of the agenda.

Motion carried 4-0 by voice vote. Commissioners Bajaj, Nafissi, and Tsao were absent.

E. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS - ADDITIONAL BACK UP MATERIALS

E.1. BLUE FOLDER

Liaison Reyes reported one Blue Folder Items associated with Item H.1.

Motion by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to receive and file the Blue Folder items.

Motion carried 4-0 by voice vote. Commissioners Bajaj, Nafissi, and Tsao were absent.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

F.1. APPROVE AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING

F.2. APPROVE THE PUBLIC WORKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 23, 2025 REGULAR MEETING

F.3. RECEIVE AND FILE A REPORT ON THE NUMBER OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS IN THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH

Motion by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve the order of the Consent Calendar.

Public comments invited.

Liaison Reyes reported one attendee, no hands raised, and no eComments.

Motion carried 4-0 by voice vote. Commissioners Bajaj, Nafissi, and Tsao were absent.

G. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - None

H. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

H.1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Liaison Reyes reported one hand raised on Zoom.

Darryl Boyd (via Zoom), resident of the 500-600 North Prospect Avenue block, noted he has been in front of the Commission and City Council recently regarding the City being out of compliance for many safety, noise, and quality of life codes; reported there has been no responses from anyone; stated he emailed Councilmember Kaluderovic two weeks ago for clarification on a budget item that she indicated had been in place for improvements for the median and she has not responded; spoke about the small plants that were placed and chosen by Mayor Light that do not provide any relief to their issues; mentioned there was no resident input requested for the work that was done to the area; spoke of submitting Public Records requests for reports regarding the area over the last 10 years and not receiving the data and stated the City is out of compliance since they should have provided information within 10 days of the request; reported noise level numbers in his neighborhood that evening and stated it is unbearable; asked why the City is stonewalling the residents, why isn't the item on the agenda for tonight, and are they waiting for someone to die before anything is done.

Liaison Reyes reported no other hands raised and no eComments.

I. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS - None

J. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION

J.1. DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS AT BROADWAY/SAPPHIRE/GUADALUPE INTERSECTION

Traffic Engineer Liu provided some background on the item which included: pedestrian and driving safety concerns, long crosswalk distances, undefined roadway space, and

illegal driving behaviors; provided details on past efforts the City had tried but noted that at the time no funds were available and it has remained an unfunded CIP project; showed a slide of the two primary options: 1) repurposing the slip lane space from Broadway to Sapphire, and 2) adding additional landscaping islands at the Guadalupe approach; reiterated no funds are available for those; stated that the City is proposing a short-term quick-build solution of striping and using flexible rubber curbs; felt this would improve visibility, shorten crosswalks, and better define roadway space; noted it could impact street sweeping, and take away parking; explained the reasons for using rubber curbs as opposed to the taller flexible posts; stated, if the Commission recommends the quick-build solution, staff will add this to the current queue of projects; provided a slide with examples of the rubber curbs and mentioned the City will move the stop sign at Broadway to Sapphire; asked for feedback as well as thoughts for long-term solutions.

Commissioner Beeli referenced the slide with the two primary options and noted his preference would be for the option on the left; opined it would be safer since there would be only one entrance from Broadway to Guadalupe; asked Traffic Engineer Liu if the City had anything else to facilitate it along with the rubber curbs.

Traffic Engineer Liu stated staff's preference is the same option and showed on another slide what they are proposing for the area.

Commissioner Simpson asked if the short-term improvements were related to cost.

Traffic Engineer Liu responded affirmatively and noted that the option is the only one the City has funds to complete; explained that the long term plan is still unfunded and they would need the proper direction and funding for it.

Commissioner Simpson spoke of the long-term solution being more appealing and hoped the City would find the budget for it but felt they should approve the short-term plan at this time.

Commissioner Anderson spoke in favor of the quick-build option, especially the move of the stop sign; felt that would alleviate the burnouts drivers do; asked if the quick-build option was also part of the permanent solution.

Traffic Engineer Liu stated if they have the money, they will hire a designer and a consultant to advise them on what they can do.

Discussion followed regarding observations of the solutions the City puts into place.

Commissioner Anderson asked if education and further outreach would take place.

Traffic Engineer Liu stated yes.

Chair Arrata invited public comment.

Jim Light, Mayor and resident of District 1, reported he lives near the intersection and asked the Commission to approve the temporary solution for two reasons: 1) pedestrian

safety and explained why it is dangerous and 2) to prevent the drivers that like to do donuts in the street and mentioned it is a regular occurrence; noted he spoke to some of his neighbors and they felt the rubber curbs were more attractive than the bollards; mentioned he liked the option to the left that was shown earlier on a slide; asked the Commission again to pass the temporary solution to help out the area.

Janet Ragonesi, resident on Sapphire Ave, spoke of the area becoming a nightmare with all the donuts being done by drivers, kids doing wheelies and using bad language, and things being thrown at homes; mentioned they enjoyed their quiet neighborhood and value the safety of the residents; spoke in favor of beautifying the area and preferred a long-term solution but was in favor of the short-term solution at this time.

Darryl Boyd (via Zoom), North Prospect Ave resident, spoke of this item being introduced by Mayor Light and quickly backed by the City and District 1 Councilmember Waller; felt this is a conflict for Councilmember Waller since he is a representative of District 1 and is showing preferential treatment and prioritization for something the Mayor desires for his own benefit; spoke that a city government seat is not an express pass to cut lines and that the residents of the 500-600 block of North Prospect Ave have been asking for traffic calming solutions for over 30 years and their requests are ignored; stated he is opposed to preferential treatment for Mayor Light and the proposed project at Broadway/Sapphire/Guadalupe; asked the City to provide a remedy for their neighborhood before they provide one for Broadway/Sapphire/Guadalupe.

Liaison Reyes reported no other hands raised and two eComments: one opposed and one in support.

Commissioner Beeli asked if the temporary solution could enclose some of the openings adjacent to the sidewalk.

Traffic Engineer Liu stated yes, they could fully enclose it.

More discussion followed regarding closing off another area where it could be confusing for drivers.

Chair Arrata asked about using beacon lighting.

Traffic Engineer Liu noted beacons are prescribed in the MUTCD for traffic control devices; stated there has to be a case made for beacon warning of some imminent danger; felt this was not a case that needed beacon lighting.

Chair Arrata asked about the cost of beacon lighting.

Traffic Engineer Liu stated it isn't just the cost of beacon lighting, but it is also the maintenance of electric signage and noted speed feedback signs are lying on the sides of roads.

Chair Arrata asked about the recommendation from Commissioner Beeli about closing off some of the areas.

Traffic Engineer Liu stated they needed to consider the cost of the temporary solution but with the Commission's recommendation they could consider it.

More discussion followed regarding the proposed temporary solution and the problems with closing off the areas they are asking about.

Chair Arrata asked Mayor Light to return to the podium; referenced Commissioner Beeli's recommendation and asked if it was extended on the parking

Mayor Light mentioned that the larger cars do block the crosswalk often, especially during street sweeping and busy beach days cars tend to park on that corner; applauded the attempt to control it, said he didn't mind if that space is lost there, and liked the request to enclose the two islands and felt it would be clearer for people and pedestrians would be safer; asked if staff could add another area from Broadway to Sapphire since they are moving that stop sign.

Traffic Engineer Liu said it is something they can consider and investigate.

More discussion followed regarding the parking, and the costs for the project.

Traffic Engineer Liu said these types of improvements are covered in the Traffic Calming Budget.

Motion by Commissioner Beeli, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to accept Traffic Engineer Liu's draft, along with the changes Commissioner Beeli suggested, of the traffic calming measures for the referenced intersection.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Simpson, Anderson, Beeli, and Chair Arrata

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion carried 4-0 by voice vote. Commissioners Bajaj, Nafissi, and Tsao were absent.

K. COMMISSION MEMBER ITEMS AND FUTURE COMMISSION AGENDA TOPICS

Chair Arrata asked if there was an update on the ramp at Avenue A.

Public Works Director Andrew Winje stated he is not in charge of Avenue A ramps but has spoken to the County's Beaches and Harbors Division; reported they are going through an EIR process for it but it has not been adopted yet.

City Engineer Lauren Sablan asked to discuss whether they would have a quorum for the next meeting.

Discussion followed and everyone present that evening voiced their intention to be at the

next meeting; City Engineer Sablan mentioned Ryan Liu would not be in attendance in September and the October calendar would be full of items.

L. ADJOURNMENT – 7:41 P.M.

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. to the next meeting of the Redondo Beach Public Works and Sustainability Commission which will be a regular meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on August 25, 2025, in the Redondo Beach Council Chambers, at 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

Motion carried 4-0 by voice vote. Commissioners Bajaj, Nafissi, and Tsao were absent.

Respectfully submitted:

Andrew Winje
Public Works Director



Administrative Report

H.1., File # PWS25-0636

Meeting Date: 9/22/2025

TITLE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS



Administrative Report

J.1., File # PWS25-1308

Meeting Date: 9/22/2025

To: PUBLIC WORKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

From: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

TITLE

DISCUSSION ON STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING THE CITY'S TREE CANOPY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Strategic Plan of the City Council includes an objective to "Inventory the City's tree canopy and present a discussion item to the City Council to determine the best strategies to enhance the tree canopy in the future". The City has recently adopted a tree protection ordinance to protect existing trees, but the objective asks what more could be done to increase the tree canopy in the City. Staff is seeking input from the public and the Public Works and Sustainability Commission (PWSC) on this topic in preparation for presentation of a report to the City Council.

BACKGROUND

The benefits of a healthy tree canopy in urban areas are becoming increasingly understood and appreciated. Documented benefits include cleaner air, heat island effect reduction, improved wildlife habitat, aesthetic value, economic value of property, stormwater quality improvements and mental health benefits. In 2021, the City Council directed the Public Works Department to begin exploration of potential changes to the City's Municipal Code to protect and potentially enhance the City's urban forest. Staff presented information and collected feedback from three of the City's commissions and reported back to the City Council. In the end, the City Council adopted ordinance changes that address protection of City trees (those in parks and in the public right of way). A summary of the activities of staff and the recommendations and actions of the various commissions and the Council are included as Attachment 1.

Determining goals and policies for the trees that are owned by the City and under its control is relatively straightforward. However, potential ordinances to address removal of, or requirements to install trees on private property can be much more controversial. Drastic improvements to the City tree canopy coverage will be difficult to achieve without addressing trees on private property, which describes about 73% of the City's land area. Therefore, an important area for strategy discussion is how to address tree canopy improvement on private property, given the various interests and concerns of the residents, businesses and institutions in the City.

DISCUSSION

The topic of tree canopy development is an important topic in California and is receiving considerable attention at the local, state and Federal levels. Several good resources on tree canopy management and master planning exist. These resources range from practical guides of best practices to a deep exploration of cultural values, social and economic benefits and needs for partnership and funding.

The topic is usually a component of a larger Climate Action Plan or developed in light of similar high-level plans to address the changing environment and our ability to live sustainably within it. Several agency examples include:

- LA County's Community Forest Management Plan
<https://cfmp.lacounty.gov/>
- City of Claremont Urban Forest Management Plan
<https://www.claremontca.gov/City-Services/Trees>
- City of Garden Grove Urban Forest Management Plan
<https://ggcity.org/sites/default/files/UFMP-Final-Plan.pdf>

The most thoroughly developed plan model is typically referred to as an Urban (or Community) Forest Management Plan (UFMP). This model yields a strategic, data-driven, and community-informed action plan for an agency to sustainably manage and grow its urban tree canopy. It includes steps like establishing a shared vision, conducting tree inventories and health assessments, developing strategic goals and actionable plans for planting and maintenance, and monitoring progress over time. The plan aims to provide quantifiable benefits such as improved public health, environmental protection from climate change, increased biodiversity, and enhanced community well-being.

Development of a UFMP is meant to provide guidance for agency activity and review for a period of decades, as the realities of tree canopy development include those evident in the natural growth timelines of trees. However, more short term and less involved projects have been done as first and more expedient steps. For instance, several agencies that are members of the nearby Gateway Cities Council of Governments recently developed a much smaller document, as part of an Urban Tree Canopy Community Prioritization Project, see this link for the [Final Report](https://cms3.revize.com/revize/gatewaycitiescouncilofgovernments/Documents/Initiatives%20Projects/Climate%20Air%20Quality/Urban%20Tree%20Canopy%20Project/California%20Resilience%20Challenge%20-%20Urban%20Tree%20Canopy%20Final%20Report%20December%202022.pdf) <https://cms3.revize.com/revize/gatewaycitiescouncilofgovernments/Documents/Initiatives%20Projects/Climate%20Air%20Quality/Urban%20Tree%20Canopy%20Project/California%20Resilience%20Challenge%20-%20Urban%20Tree%20Canopy%20Final%20Report%20December%202022.pdf> produced by this effort. From the executive summary, the project goals were explained as:

"...this project intended to provide insight into improving the tree canopy in these cities in a deliberate and thoughtful manner that prioritized the needs and desires of the residents within these communities and to invest in areas that have been historically excluded from accessing necessary resources and funding. The project sought to lay the groundwork for cities to bring about the benefits associated with increasing urban tree canopy, such as improved air quality, the mitigation of extreme heat, aesthetic value, and increased property values, by providing maps, data, and reports that can help guide the cities' urban forestry strategies for the future."

This project does not intend or express itself to be a 40-year guidance document. Rather it provides important mapping to get the process started, as first steps to identify tree canopy deficiencies and address the reasons for them, in those cities. A similar effort to provide data related to existing inventory, develop community informed priorities and settle on locally applicable policies and practices to preserve and enhance both City-owned and privately owned tree canopy would be of

value. Such a project would include similar phases that might include:

1. Develop a parcel level assessment of existing and potential tree canopy based on high-resolution imagery and LiDAR data
2. Conduct a data-driven and collaborative prioritization process through surveys, public outreach and input from established experts and standards
3. Produce analyses, reports, maps and tools to inform and empower the community and City to implement best practices for short- and long-term outcomes

The City's Urban Forester and Arborist has some experience with this with a previous employer in San Diego County. His recommendations, captured in email correspondence included as Attachment 2, include a program that follows a similar outline.

In general, similarities of any good program include exploration of City priorities and identifying policy over three basic areas. These include:

1. Assessing and measuring current inventory and establishing improvement benchmarks over an appropriate schedule
2. Developing practice and policy guidance to educate, direct, incentivize and regulate urban forest management for both agency controlled and privately controlled trees and space for trees
3. Establishing monitoring and review processes to continue to improve the program as conditions change and to inform funding level required to achieve desired results

The City's current tree canopy is reported as 8.3% coverage on the statewide database (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r05/state-tribal-forestry/californias-urban-tree-canopy>) prepared by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), parent agency of the US Forest Service. The data is provided by census tract, allowing one to explore how canopy coverage varies from that average throughout the City. Some portions of the City, especially near the waterfront have canopy coverage percentages in the low single digits, while others in certain single family neighborhoods have coverage levels in the mid-teens.

While this resource gives a good comparative measure of tree canopy within Redondo Beach and among other California cities, caution must be used to understand that number in an absolute sense. Often the algorithms used to measure the coverage carve out certain types of land use, based on the objectives of their measurement. For instance, the LA County U/CFMP discounts naturally occurring forested areas at one end and large developments where trees are unwanted, such as LAX. This is because the County's purpose is to understand what can be done to improve the County's canopy in the developed and populated parts of its land area.

A second example for caution can be taken from the USDA database mentioned above. The USDA database shows a marked and alarming decrease in canopy - exceeding 20% reduction in many census tracts - in the four-year period between 2018 and 2022. Taking note that some less developed and forested areas may have been affected by wildfire to account for such a drop, reductions of this magnitude are also seen in Redondo Beach numbers, where no massive fire or other catastrophic tree destroying events have taken place. Closer examination reveals changes to methodology, resolution of aerial imagery or interpretation of those images is likely to account for the change, more than changes in the field. Figure 1 shows a comparison of polygons (dark green vs lighter green) identified as tree canopy between 2018 and 2022, which suggests changes to techniques rather than true loss of canopy. Both of these examples emphasize the need for a better

understanding of the City's tree canopy by a commissioned and specific study.

Figure 1 - Tree Canopy Comparison 2018 to 2022 - USDA Viewer



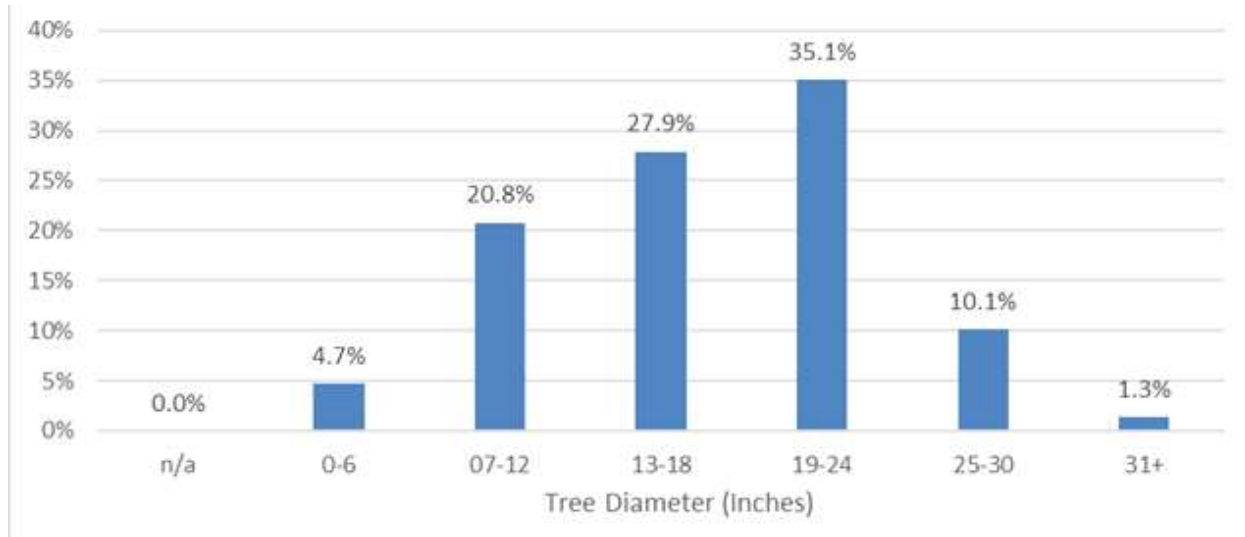
The current inventory of City owned trees includes over 11,300 trees made up of over 200 species. The diversity of species, an important element of a health canopy is represented in Table 1. The top ten most common species are identified but another 216 species are included in the "Other" category. While none of these "other" species make up more than 2% of the inventory, together this broad diversity represents over 40% of the City's trees.

Table 1 - Diversity of City Owned Trees - By Rank

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

Another measure of the City controlled inventory is diversity in tree maturity, using trunk diameter as a proxy metric. An ideal distribution to ensure a growing canopy in the future would likely have most of the tree stock in the younger, smaller diameter trunks. This emphasis accounts for the fact that many of these will not reach full, broad canopy, maturity. From Chart 1, it can be seen that the City's inventory is heavily biased towards the mature trees. This indicates it will be difficult to increase canopy coverage without planting many more young trees, and that increase in canopy will come only as trees mature. The trunk size distribution also indicates the vulnerability the City has to its canopy by removal of or natural demise of its mature trees.

Chart 1 - Redondo Beach Tree Diameter Distribution



This accounting of City owned trees by definition does not include trees on private property, which makes up nearly three quarters of the City's land area. Information, such as count, type and maturity for the portion of the City's urban forest made up by privately owned trees is not currently available.

The City's tree canopy resource, made up of both privately and publicly owned trees provide a crucial and often overlooked benefit to the residents and visitors to the City. Efforts for the City to manage it will require a comprehensive data driven assessment of existing conditions, a well thought out and collaborative policy and value apparatus, and resources to implement the practical implications of these policies.

Best practices include master planning using a UFMP model, a smaller scale prioritization model (similar to the Gateway Cities COG), practices conducted by City staff for City owned trees, and regulatory or incentive programs to influence what happens on private property.

Staff is seeking response and input from the Commission and the public to identify priorities, community shared values, and recommendations on strategies to enhance the tree canopy to provide to Council.

COORDINATION

Coordination of this report took place with the Community Development Department and the Public Works Department.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 - Summary of City's Tree Ordinance discussion and adoption, 2021 to date
- 2 - Information on Increasing Canopy Cover - City's Urban Forester

Tree Ordinance Development Timeline

The following is a timeline of the landmark dates between 2021 and 2023 leading to the City Council adopting the City's first tree ordinance:

- 8/17/21 The Council held an initial discussion regarding the need for an ordinance to protect trees in Redondo Beach. A draft ordinance proposed by residents Mara Lang and Laura MacMoran was considered. Staff was directed to solicit input from the Recreation & Parks Commission, Public Works Commission and Planning Commission regarding four potential elements of a tree ordinance:
- A definition of protected/heritage trees
 - Prohibiting removal of parkways trees for driveway access as part of construction projects
 - Prohibiting removal of protected/heritage trees located on private property
 - The types of trees that are recommended and discouraged from being planted on public and private property
- 11/11/21 The Recreation & Parks Commission reviewed the tree ordinance criteria and made the following recommendations:
- That the City establish a heritage tree designation
 - That trees be protected from driveway expansions
 - That the City establish regulations regarding removal of private property trees
 - That recommended and discouraged trees species lists be developed
- 12/1/21 The Public Works Commission reviewed the tree ordinance criteria and made the following recommendations:
- That the City establish a heritage tree designation and a public review process for removal of heritage trees
 - Maintaining the current procedures used by the Public Works Department for evaluating driveway-related tree removal requests
 - That the tree ordinance address certain trees on private property
 - That recommended and discouraged trees species lists be developed
- 1/20/22 The Planning Commission reviewed the tree ordinance criteria and made the following recommendations:

- That the City develop a tree ordinance that includes a protected/heritage tree designation
- That the ordinance prohibit removal of trees to provide driveway access as part of new construction projects
- That the ordinance prohibit removal of heritage trees on private property
- That recommended and discouraged trees species lists be developed

3/15/22 The City Council reviewed the input from the three Commissions & directed staff to develop an ordinance to regulate trees on both public and private property, and to include the following elements:

- The goal of replacing removed trees on a one-to-one basis and regulating the unfettered removal of trees in an effort to preserve and grow a desirable tree canopy in Redondo Beach
- No front yard tree removal without a one-to-one replacement with a 24" tree from the favored species list
- Allowing removal of dead, sick, disfavored or nuisance causing species in front yard setbacks, with one-to-one replacement
- A fee be paid to the City tree fund if a rear yard or side yard tree is removed. Violations resulting in a fine to cover the cost of planting five trees, plus \$15,000
- Replacement trees be minimum 24" box
- Incorporate the best aspects from the Manhattan Beach, Encinitas and Beverly Hills tree ordinances,
- Small fees paid to the City to cover the cost of tree replacements
- Objective standards for City staff and experts to have reasonable flexibility to uphold the goals of the City
- A heritage tree definition, favored species list and disfavored species list
- When a property sells, a requirement to install a 24" box tree in the parkway if a tree is missing
- No criminal enforcement of violations

1/17/23 Staff presented a draft ordinance addressing the various elements requested by the Council. The Council heard testimony from 21 residents and received 29 eComments. After discussion, the Council directed staff to return with an ordinance containing the existing language pertaining to trees on public property and removing all sections addressing trees on private property. Council also directed staff to explore an incentive program for property owners to plant and replace trees on private property.

2/7/22 Ordinance No. 3251-23 was introduced for first reading

2/14/23 Council adopted Ordinance No. 3251-23

From: [Mark Garlock](#)
To: [Andrew Winje](#)
Cc: [Michael Klein](#)
Subject: Information on Increasing Canopy Cover
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 2:04:28 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Andy,

Increasing canopy cover requires strategic tree planting in parkways, parks and other public spaces. Private property can also be considered for increasing canopy cover by incentivizing or requiring tree planting on private property through policies or providing trees to private property owners. Canopy cover objectives can be driven by stakeholders in the community, environmental goals or a component of a climate action plan.

The following should be considered when developing a plan to increase canopy cover in a City.

Assessing and Quantifying the Urban Forest

- Quantify the urban forest through inventory data. This includes tree count, condition, recommended maintenance and vacant sites
- Quantify Canopy cover through Lidar data
- Quantify benefits of the urban forest with software such as iTree

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Planning The Urban Forest

- Develop urban forest canopy goals. Most coastal cities in southern California have a goal of 15%-25% canopy cover.
- Urban Forestry Master Plans identify short and long term goals for the planning and management of the urban forest. These plans can range anywhere from \$30k-\$70k
- Develop a management plan which defines how the goals in the master plan will be accomplished within a time frame
- Prioritize planting locations using data collected to identify areas with significant needs for planting
- Develop ordinances that require a minimum percentage or tree canopy for new developments

Implementing Planting and Maintaining the Urban Forest

- Identify and develop funding through budgets or grants for planting and future maintenance
- Develop and implement a "Young Tree Maintenance" program during the tree establishment period
- Promote species diversity and appropriate selection based on microclimate and parkway size
- Collaborate with local tree advocacy groups such as California Urban Forest Council for expertise and resources
- Educate the community on tree benefits through Arbor Day celebrations, community outreach and obtaining recognition as a Tree City USA

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Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Mark Garlock

Parks and Urban Forestry Manager

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