

**City of San Diego
Community Forest Advisory Board**

MEETING MINUTES
June 16, 2010
Civic Center Plaza Building

1) **Convene:** Vicki Estrada, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:48 a.m.

2) **Present:**

Members – Patrick Caughey, Fausto Palafox, Gail Roberts, Jon Becker, Karen Davis, Victoria Heithaus, Craig Jones, Mary Johnson, Joe Jones, Tershia d’Elgin.

[Not Present] – Stephen Lamprides, Dan Simpson.

Guests – Dennis Otsuji

City Staff – Drew Potocki, Ken Healy, Tony Gangitano, Alissa Gabriel, Theresa Millette, Mary Wright, Lara Gates, and Billy Church.

3) **Approval of Minutes:** none

4) **Chair’s Announcements:** Estrada on Neighborhood Resources Council Committee agenda for June 21st.

5) **Working Group Reports:** none

6) **Discussion Item(s):**

- a. Report from the Planning Department on plan updates in process and efforts to begin preparing a street tree plan template to be incorporated into the various plans. Discussed several sub-topics:
 - Call for input in Community Plan updates
 - Creation of street tree plans for Barrio Logan and Otay Mesa
 - Possibility of all-encompassing general street tree plan
 - Overview of planning process in general
 - Linking general plans with more specific action plans
 - Future scopes for consultant agreements will be passed through CFAB
 - Multiple upcoming community plan updates point to a need for a full-time urban forester in planning to oversee urban forest aspect.

- b. Presentation by the Japanese Garden (by Dennis Otsuji from ONA) "Next Phase of the Balboa Park Japanese Garden (JFG)-existing Gold Gulch tree program."

Parks & Recreation Dept has hired ONA, Inc. for landscape work on the JFG Expansion project, which includes: removing a number of large eucalyptus trees and palms per council policy and replacing them with pine and cherry trees and tea plants; and reworking storm water run-off to reduce erosion.

The JFG is responsible for the maintenance of the leasehold property plus is taking on some perimeter expenses. The JFG is the only tenant in Balboa Park to pay for their own water.

- c. Housekeeping business:
 - i) Establishing quarterly reports to and from Council Districts plus distribution of minutes to districts and Mayor.
 - ii) City's Storm Water Department representative on the Board.
 - iii) Submittal to the Mayor and City Council on how the City's Urban Forest will be managed and funded in the future (recommended revenue sources based on the committees' ideas and other city examples).
 - iv) Presentation distribution: formatting and selecting recipients.
 - v) Status of "Tree City USA" designation

7) **Action Item(s):** none

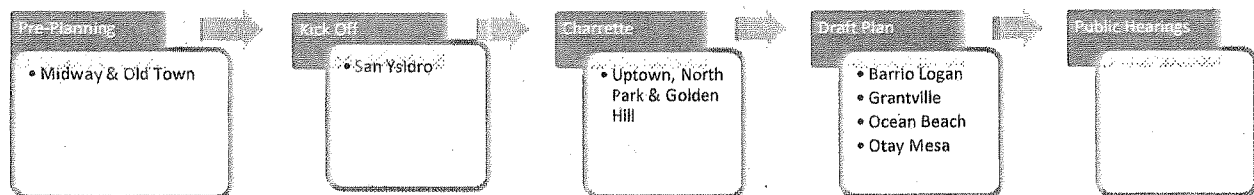
8) **Public Comment:** none

9) **Adjourned** at 1:18pm

CITY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Community Plan Updates At a Glance

Community Plan	Status
Otay Mesa	An internal draft plan has been developed. Traffic modeling is underway. Technical studies dependent on the traffic study will be completed after the traffic modeling is concluded. CPCI staff is working with the LDC team to draft zoning for the land use designation. The more detailed planning for the village areas will occur through the use of Precise Plans.
Ocean Beach	Draft community plan is complete. Traffic modeling is anticipated to be complete Summer 2010. Staff is soliciting consultant services for technical studies needed for the Environmental Impact Report.
Barrio Logan	Staff is drafting the community plan elements. Completion of the draft community plan, zoning program and traffic modeling is expected in Summer 2010.
Grantville Master Plan	Traffic Analysis for three land use alternatives is ongoing. CEQA process to begin in Summer 2010. Public hearings process is anticipated to begin in the Fall/Winter 2011.
Uptown, North Park & Greater Golden Hill Cluster	The community plan updates kicked off in the Fall of 2009. The updates are in the existing conditions and education phase of the public participation process. The charrette is scheduled for September 2010.
San Ysidro	Consultant Contract Approved. Community kickoff planned for Summer 2010
Midway-Pacific Coast Highway & Old San Diego	In the process of selecting a multi-disciplinary planning consultant team Kickoff is anticipated in Fall 2010



COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATES

Completed

Downtown

In Process

Barrio Logan
 Grantville*
 Greater Golden Hill
 Midway-Pacific
 Highway
 North Park
 Ocean Beach
 Old San Diego
 Otay Mesa
 San Ysidro
 Uptown






*Grantville Redevelopment Master Plan includes subareas A and B

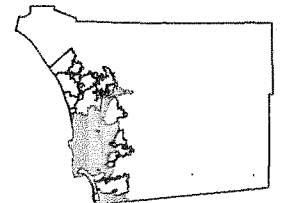
Under-consideration

Mission Valley
 Skyline-Paradise
 Hills
 Southeastern*

*Southeastern includes communities of Southeastern San Diego and Encanto

OTHER MAP FEATURES

-  Freeways / Highways
-  City of San Diego Boundary
-  Planning Area Boundaries
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  Military Use



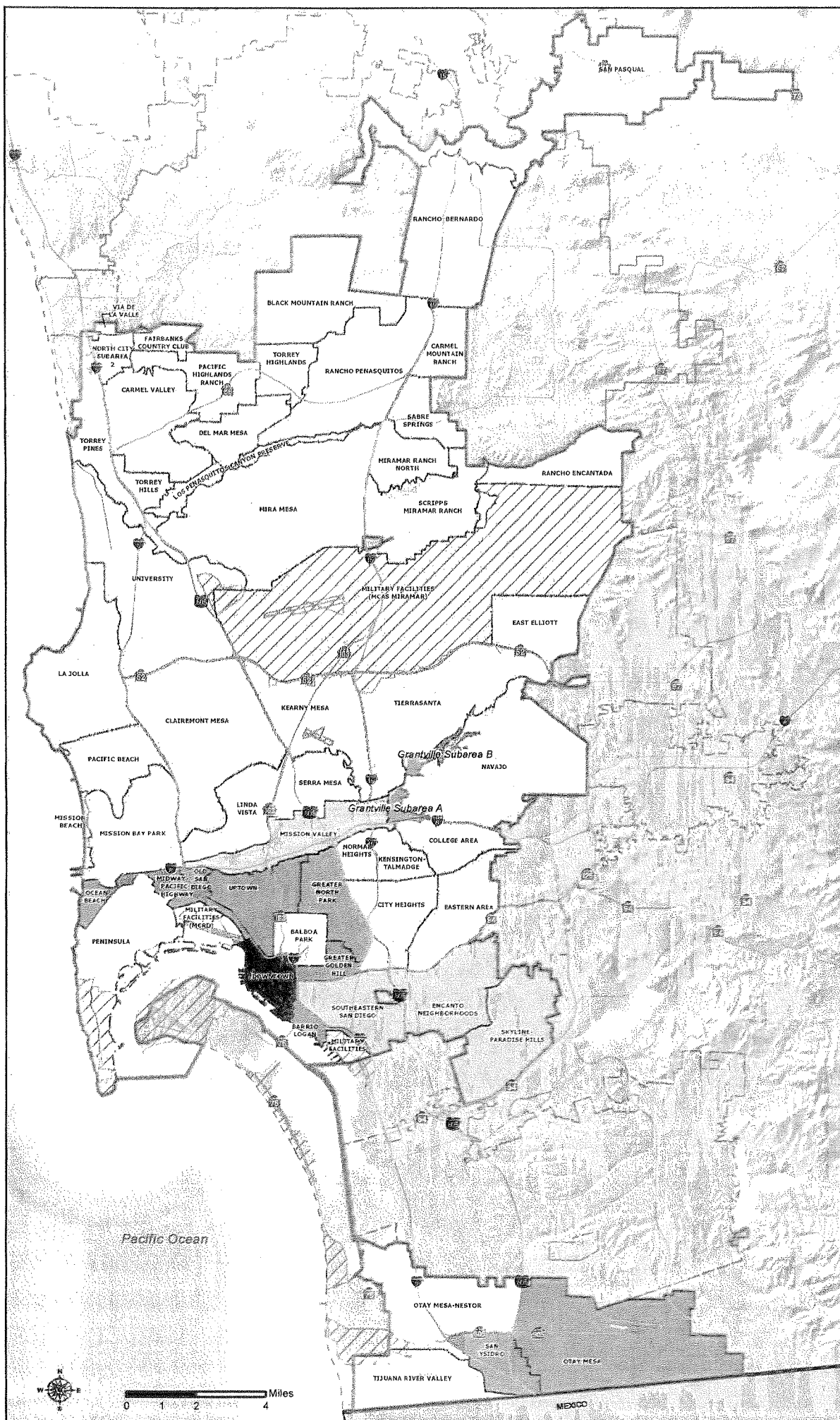
THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
 CITY PLANNING &
 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT
 DEPARTMENT

JUNE 14, 2010



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J. Urban Forestry

Goal

- ◆ Protection and expansion of a sustainable urban forest.

Discussion

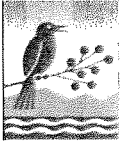
Trees in the urban landscapes are an effective, low-technology way to help meet "green" building goals and reduce heat islands, while also achieving other environmental and economic benefits. The City's urban forest, comprised of publicly and privately owned trees, helps reduce energy consumption, improve air quality, reduce storm water runoff, decrease soil erosion, improve the pedestrian environment, reduce glare, and improve community image and aesthetics. These benefits increase when the size and extent of the tree canopy is increased. Studies have shown that urban trees offer returns far greater than their cost of planting and upkeep. For these reasons, the City has landscape standards and a policy for tree protection.

Policies

- CE-J.1. Develop, nurture, and protect a sustainable urban/community forest.
- a. Seek resources and take actions needed to plant, care for, and protect trees in the public right-of-way and parks and those of significant importance in our communities.
 - b. Plant large canopy shade trees, where appropriate and with consideration of habitat and water conservation goals, in order to maximize environmental benefits.
 - c. Seek to retain significant and mature trees.

The Benefits of Trees

- *Strategically placed trees around buildings can lower air conditioning bills, and windbreak trees can reduce winter heating bills.*
- *Tree root systems hold soil in place, preventing erosion. Trees also absorb storm water and reduce peak storm runoff.*
- *Trees help cleanse the environment. During photosynthesis, trees absorb, or sequester carbon dioxide and convert it into oxygen. Trees also remove sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and particulates from the air.*
- *City trees help to counter the urban heat island effect.*
- *Trees reduce noise pollution by acting as a buffer and absorbing urban noise.*
- *Trees help create attractive and desirable shopping districts. Mature trees also raise property values.*
- *Trees provide homes for animals that would otherwise be unable to survive in an urban habitat.*
- *Tree-lined streets help calm traffic and encourage walking.*

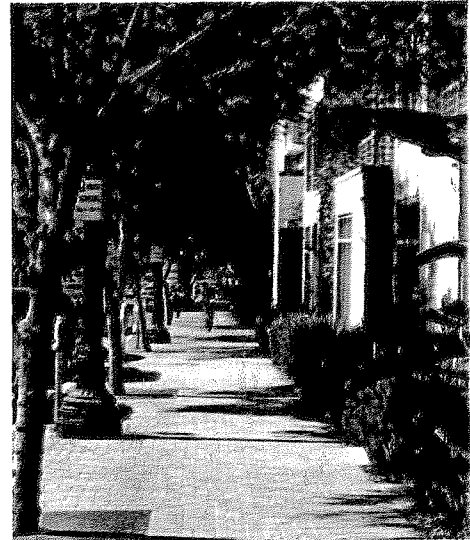


Conservation Element

- d. Provide forest linkages to connect and enhance public parks, plazas, recreation and open space areas (see also Mobility Element, Policies ME-A.6 and ME-A.7, and Recreation Element, Policy RE-D.6).
- CE-J.2. Include community street tree master plans in community plans.
- a. Prioritize community streets for street tree programs.
 - b. Identify the types of trees proposed for those priority streets by species (with acceptable alternatives) or by design form.
 - c. Integrate known protected trees and inventory other trees that may be eligible to be designated as a protected tree.
- CE-J.3. Develop community plan street tree master plans during community plan updates in an effort to create a comprehensive citywide urban forest master plan.
- CE-J.4. Continue to require the planting of trees through the development permit process.
- a. Consider tree planting as mitigation for air pollution emissions, storm water runoff, and other environmental impacts as appropriate.
- CE-J.5. Support public outreach efforts to educate City staff, the business community, and the general public on the environmental and economic benefits of trees.

City of San Diego Landscape Regulations

Landscape regulations (Municipal Code Chapter 14, Article 2, Division 4) are in place and designed to: minimize the erosion of slopes and disturbed lands through revegetation, conserve energy by the provision of shade trees over streets, sidewalks, parking areas and other paving, conserve water through low-water-using planting and irrigation design, reduce the risk of fire through site design and the management of flammable vegetation, and to improve the appearance of the built environment by increasing the quality and quantity of landscaping visible from public rights-of-way, private streets, and adjacent properties.

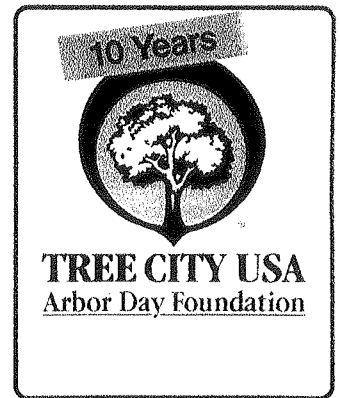


As a TREE CITY USA, your community will receive...

... additions to your awards denoting the year

... a Tree City USA flag

... special anniversary materials



... along with the joy of stewardship and the gratitude of future generations

The Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, recognizes towns and cities across America that meet the standards of the TREE CITY USA® program.

At least half of the trees in a typical city are on public property...along streets, in parks, and around public buildings. The TREE CITY USA program is designed to recognize those

communities that effectively manage their public tree resources, and to encourage the implementation of community tree management based on four TREE CITY USA Standards.

These four standards provide structure for a community forestry program, require that program to demonstrate success based on the judgment of the state forester's office, and provide for an awareness and appreciation of trees among the

residents of the community.

TREE CITY USA is an ongoing community improvement program, and your community can and should apply for recertification each year.

Ongoing TREE CITY USA recognition can make a strong contribution to your community's pride, and it will keep you in touch with other communities and resources which can help you improve your program.

Application Procedures

The TREE CITY USA application for recertification must be completed by an appropriate city official (mayor, city forester, chairman of the tree board, etc.). Mail the completed

application to your state forester along with all requested supporting material no later than December 31. Your state forester will evaluate the application and forward it to the Arbor Day

Foundation. You will be advised of whether or not your community qualifies for TREE CITY USA recertification.

TREE CITY USA Standards

STANDARD 1: A Tree Board or Department

A tree board is a group of concerned citizens, usually volunteer, charged by ordinance to develop and administer a comprehensive community tree management program for the care of trees on public property. Tree boards usually function with the aid of professional foresters. In communities with a population of more than 10,000, city forestry departments with salaried employees are often feasible. These departments may or may not be supported by advisory boards or administrative commissions.

STANDARD 2: A Community Tree Ordinance

The community tree ordinance needs to designate the tree board or department and give them the responsibility for writing and implementing the annual community forestry work plan. The ordinance should determine public tree care policies for planting, maintenance and removals. Ideally, the city tree ordinance will make provisions for establishing and updating a list of recommended street tree species to be planted with spacing and location requirements. A sample tree ordinance may be obtained by contacting the Arbor Day Foundation.

STANDARD 3: A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at least \$2 per capita.

Many communities begin their program by taking an inventory of the trees growing

on public property. The species, location, and condition of each tree are noted (i.e. healthy, needs pruning, should be removed, etc.) and the inventory data is summarized in a written report for presentation and approval by the city council.

The report should be an objective analysis of the present state of the urban forest with recommendations for future management. The essential, ongoing activity for the care of trees along streets, in parks, and on other public places is the community forestry program. The annual work plan should address planting, watering and fertilizing, dead and hazardous tree removal, safety and fine pruning, and insect and disease control. To be named as a TREE CITY USA, a town or city must annually spend at least \$2 per capita for its annual community forestry program. Consider all funds spent for tree care - budget for street tree department or board, park department's tree expenditures, dead tree removal, etc.

STANDARD 4: An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

An Arbor Day observance can be simple and brief or an all-day or all-week observance. A proclamation issued by the mayor must accompany the observance and declare the observance of Arbor Day in your community. You can obtain a free "Celebrate Arbor Day Guidebook" by contacting the Arbor Day Foundation. Along with ideas for celebrating the holiday, the packet contains a sample proclamation.

