



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Public Workshop on Preserving and Expanding San Diego's Urban Forest to be Held Oct. 5

SAN DIEGO – The trees that make up the urban tree canopy cover of San Diego's urban forest will be discussed at an upcoming public workshop.

The City of San Diego's Climate Action Plan calls for 15% urban tree canopy coverage by 2020 and 35% urban tree coverage by 2035. This goal will require the preservation and maintenance of existing trees, as well as the planting of many more trees. Developing an Urban Tree Canopy Assessment is an important step in determining:

- How many trees make up the City's current urban forest,
- How many and where new trees can be planted to reach the Climate Action Plan goals,
- How data about trees will affect individual communities and the City as a whole,
- Ways the assessment will be used for the City's General Plan, community plans, and project designs.

The Urban Tree Canopy Assessment is funded by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for the City of San Diego and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The assessment is based on the high-resolution remotely-sensed data Light Detection and Ranging that are already acquired for all urban areas in San Diego County. This method was developed by the University of Vermont and the U.S. Forest Service.

Co-sponsored by the City of San Diego, the Community Forestry Advisory Board and the San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council, the Tree Canopy Workshop will be a presentation – led by Jarlath O'Neill-Dunne, project director at the University of Vermont – to discuss the findings in the assessment and next steps in leveraging this data to grow the urban tree canopy.

The free workshop will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 5, from 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the War Memorial Building in Balboa Park, 3325 Zoo Drive. Lunch is available for \$20, or you may bring your own. Interested participants should register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tree-canopy-results-workshop-tickets-27845963025>

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