

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD POLICY

SUBJECT: Tree Removal in Parks

BACKGROUND: On occasions, it is necessary to remove trees in parks in order to construct or improve facilities. This frequently results in citizen's complaints.

PURPOSE: To clarify the Board's concern with tree removals within the park system.

- POLICY:
1. Tree is an imminent hazard. Trees found by a Certified Arborist to be dead, structurally unsound, leaning or decayed and pose an imminent threat to public safety, park facilities or property will be removed as a first priority.
 2. Trees that are diseased, in advanced stages of decline or fallen over due to storm damage as identified by a Certified Arborist will be removed as a second priority.
 3. Healthy trees that are not horticulturally significant or based on site conditions can require removal. A tree located within a construction zone that is too large to relocate or protect on-site, trees that are volunteer seedlings that are affecting the health of trees of significant value, seedlings which are noxious weeds and will rapidly overtake undeveloped areas or impede security efforts by blocking visibility in canyons will be removed if approved by the Park Arborist with prior notice to City Council Office, whenever possible.
 4. Where it is necessary to remove trees in parks every effort will be made to plant new trees as replacements where feasible. In the case of heritage trees that may be historically or horticulturally significant, efforts will be made to propagate new trees directly from the heritage tree prior to removal. The Park Arborist will submit recommendations on suitable replacement species when disease or other considerations limit same species replacement

SUBSTANTIATION: Park and Recreation Board Minutes of 5/11/66 (page 213).
Park and Recreation Board Minutes of 11/15/01 (page 4).