

Trees For Communities Interpretive Signage Project

Urban Forestry Program
Transportation Department





Overview

Background

- Goal to encourage stewardship of trees
- In partnership with Sherman Heights Community Center

Potential Topics

- Benefits of Trees
- Community Impact (Air pollution)
- Tree ID + fun facts

Design Will Include:

- QR code linking to self-guided tree trek PDF on City website
- English/Spanish



SD Urban Forestry Program



Sherman Heights Tree Trek

SHERMAN HEIGHTS COMMUNITY TREE TREK



Architectural History

Established in 1867 by Civil War veteran and former SD mayor Matthew Sherman, Sherman Heights was originally a 160-acre tract developed into residential lots. Architecturally, the neighborhood is characterized by Victorian-era homes, many of which were constructed between the 1890s and 1920s. Residences showcase a variety of styles, reflecting the neighborhood's diverse cultural influences over the years. Commitment to historic preservation has led to the restoration of several homes, maintaining the neighborhood's unique architectural charm.

Sugar Gum
Eucalyptus



Eucalyptus cladocalyx
Native to South Australia, it was introduced to California in the 1800s for timber harvesting.

California Fan Palm



Washingtonia filifera
California's only native palm! Indigenous peoples, such as the Cahuilla, used its fibers for baskets & roofing.

Tree Yucca



Yucca filifera
Native to northern Mexico, it's one of the largest species of yucca in the world, is incredibly drought tolerant, & can live 500+ years.

Pink Orchid Tree



Bauhinia purpurea
It blooms for months, producing orchid-like flowers that attract pollinators.

Tipu Tree



Tipuana tipu
Native to South America (Bolivia & Brazil), this tree is prized for its bright yellow blooms & fast growth. It's a common San Diego street tree.

Queen Palm



Syagrus romanzoffiana
Native to S. America (Brazil & Argentina), it's popular for its graceful, tropical look despite its high maintenance fruit & fronds.

Coast Live Oak



Quercus agrifolia
Native to coastal CA & Baja, it can live 250+ years. Its acorns supported many indigenous peoples in the region.

Jacaranda



Jacaranda mimosifolia
Native to S. America (Argentina/Bolivia), known for its lavender-purple flowers in late spring & being the #1 shade tree in San Diego.

Silk Oak



Grevillea robusta
Native to eastern Australia, it has striking fern-like foliage & golden-orange flowers. Its wood is prized in furniture-making.

Evergreen Flowering Pear



Pyrus kawakamii
Native to Taiwan & southern China, it's notable for blooming in late winter to early spring, when few others do.

Empress Tree



Paulownia tomentosa
Native to China, it's associated with luck & royalty, & often planted when a baby girl is born. It's extremely fast-growing.

White Floss Silk Tree



Ceiba insignis
Native to S. America, it has a green, spiny trunk & tropical-like flowers. Seed pods are filled with a silky, buoyant cotton-like fluff.



Trees for Communities is implemented under a Supplemental Environmental Project pursuant to an agreement with the San Diego Air Pollution Control District.

To learn more about trees & urban forestry initiatives visit: sandiego.gov/urban-forestry

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Tree San Diego is a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to increasing the quality & density of San Diego's urban forest. We collaborate with local and state government agencies, nonprofits, Native tribes, community organizations & businesses to plant the right trees in the right places with the right care.

The **City of San Diego's Urban Forestry Program** plants, protects, promotes, and maintains trees for livable and sustainable communities. Maintaining over 250,000 street trees throughout the City, San Diego's Urban Forestry programs engage the community through tree planting events and stewardship opportunities.

SD Urban Forestry Program



Installation Location Adjacent to Sherman Heights Community Center (West)



sandiego.gov



Expectations and Timeline

- Requesting feedback from CFAB on:
 - **General signage topics**
- Topics should:
 - Focus on information that remains consistent over time
 - Be concise enough to allow Spanish translation
 - Deliver a clear and meaningful impact
- Design input is not requested at this time
- Final approval of content and design given by City staff

Feedback

- Please email feedback to Olivia Mabee at omabee@sandiego.gov by Wednesday, February 25, 2026.