

Trees For Communities Interpretive Signage Project

Urban Forestry Program
Transportation Department



SD Urban Forestry Program



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



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Urban Forestry Program



Sherman Heights Tree Trek

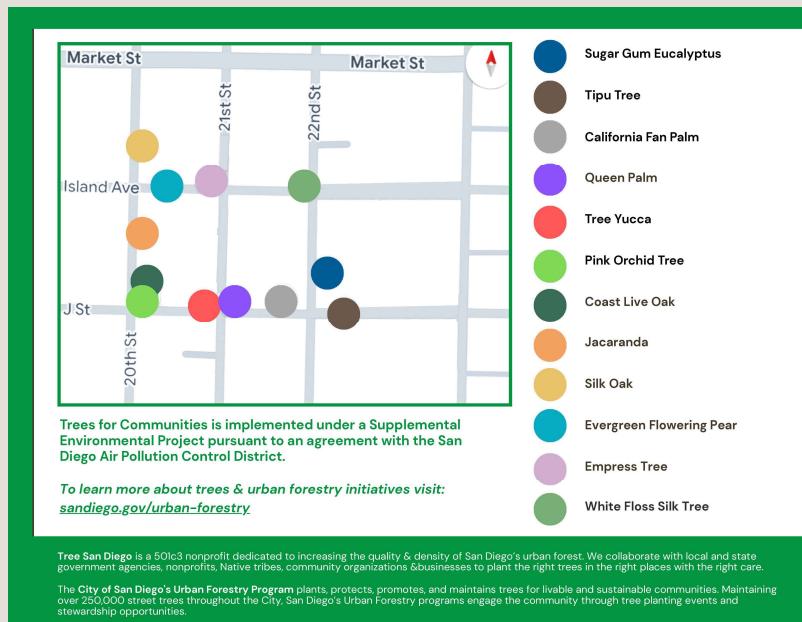
SHERMAN HEIGHTS COMMUNITY TREE TREK

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 1880s 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.

TREE SAN DIEGO **Grow a Green San Diego**

Sugar Gum Eucalyptus <i>Eucalyptus cladocalyx</i> Native to south Australia, it was introduced to California in the 1800s for timber harvesting.	California Fan Palm <i>Washingtonia filifera</i> California's only native palm! Indigenous peoples, such as the Cahulilla, used its fibers for baskets & roofing.	Tree Yucca <i>Yucca filifera</i> Native to northern Mexico, it's one of the largest species of yucca in the world. It's incredibly drought tolerant, & can live 500+ years.	Pink Orchid Tree <i>Bauhinia purpurea</i> It blooms for months, producing orchid-like flowers that attract pollinators.
Tipu Tree <i>Tipuana tipu</i> Native to South America (Bolivia & Brazil), this tree is prized for its bright yellow blooms & fast growth, making it a common San Diego street tree.	Queen Palm <i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i> Native to S. America (Brazil & Argentina), it's popular in its native tropical locations because its high maintenance fruit & fronds.	Coast Live Oak <i>Quercus agrifolia</i> Native to coastal CA & Baja, it can live 250+ years. Acorns supported many indigenous peoples in the region.	Jacaranda <i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> 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 <i>Grevillea robusta</i> Native to eastern Australia, it has striking fern-like foliage & golden-orange flowers. Its wood is prized in furniture-making.	Evergreen Flowering Pear <i>Pyrus kawakamii</i> Native to Taiwan & southern China, it's notable for blooming in late winter to early spring, when few others do.	Empress Tree <i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> 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 <i>Ceiba insignis</i> Native to S. America, it has a green, spiny trunk & tropical-like flowers. Seed pods are filled with a silky, buoyant cotton-like floss.

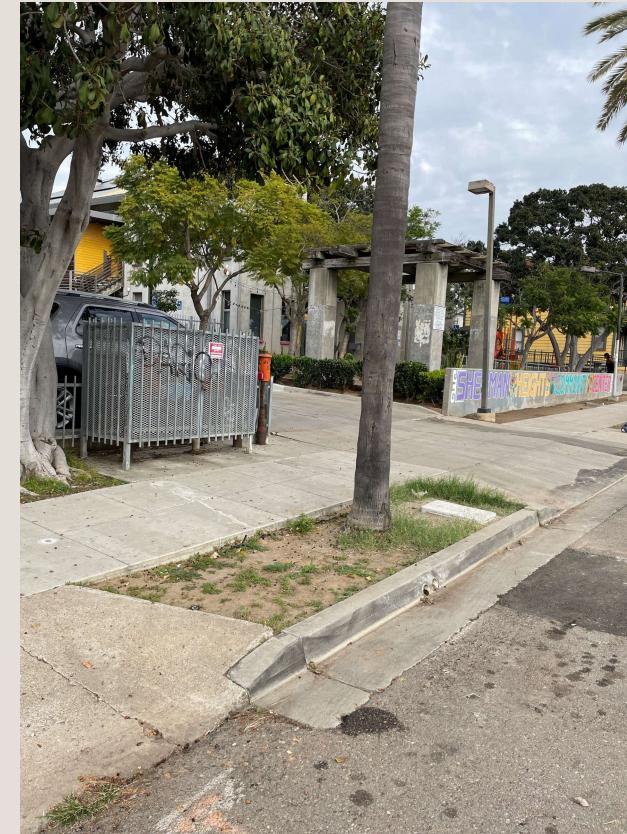




Urban Forestry Program



Installation Location Adjacent to Sherman Heights Community Center (West)



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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.