

Urban Forestry Program

City Forester, Brian Widener

Resiliency Advisory Board

May 28, 2026



MISSION:

Plant, protect, promote, and maintain trees for livable and sustainable communities.



Tree Stewardship:

Grow a Green San Diego!



Urban Forestry Program 5-Year-Plan:

- Increase tree canopy cover
- Maximize the efficiencies in maintaining the urban forest
- Minimize the risk of trees in an urban environment

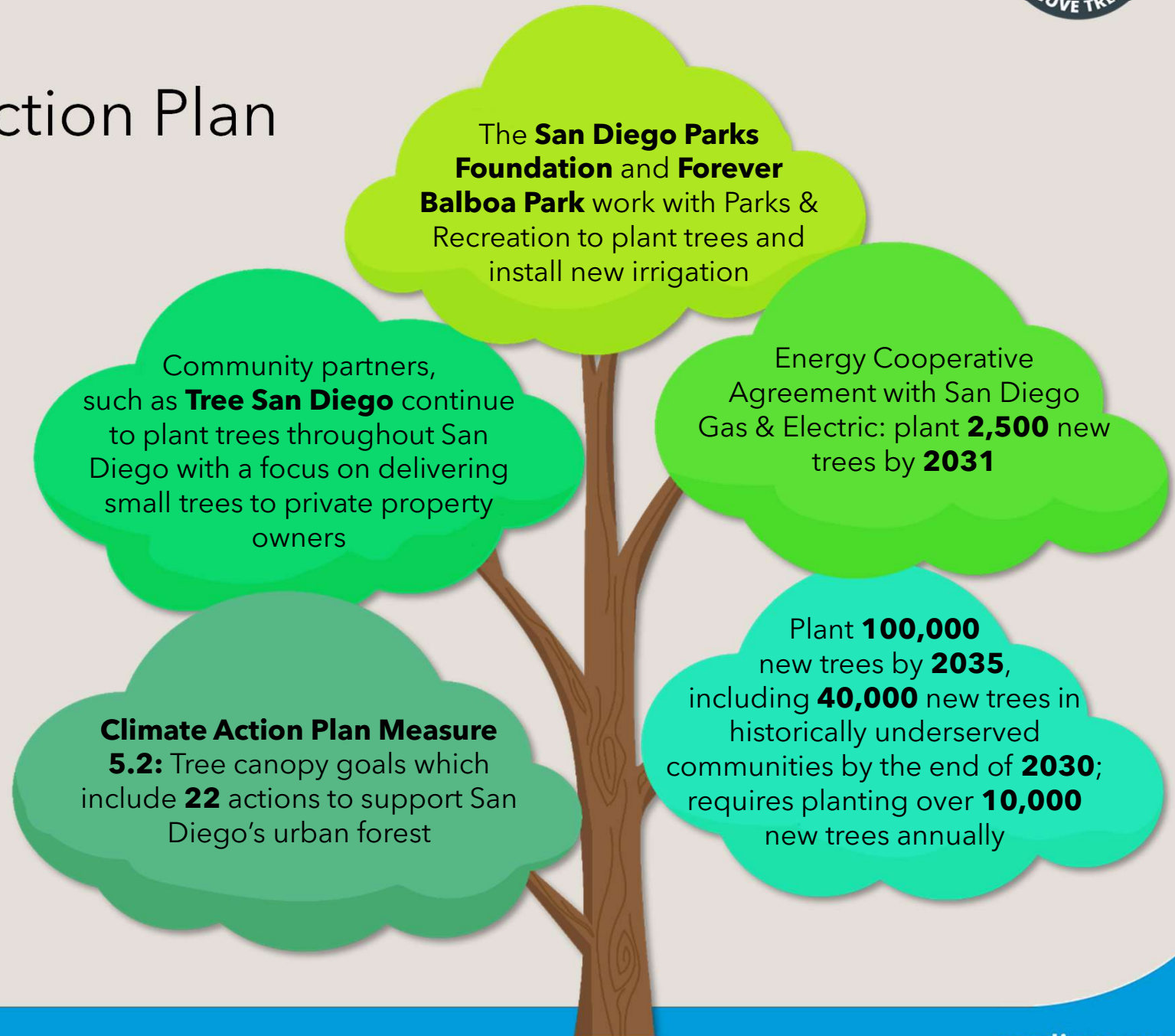


San Diego's Tree Canopy Cover

- Measure 5.2 of the Climate Action Plan calls for increasing the tree canopy cover
 - Reach 35% by 2035
- City performed a flyover in 2014 & 2021
- Through remote sensing imagery analysis, measurements yielded nearly:
 - 15% tree canopy cover in 2021
 - 13% tree canopy cover in 2014

Planning Area Name	Canopy % Yr 1	Canopy % Yr 2	% Canopy Change
MISSION BEACH	5.02	7.89	-2.87
DOWNTOWN	7.15	9.65	-2.50
DEL MAR MESA	14.16	15.90	-1.74
PACIFIC BEACH	15.62	17.20	-1.57
TORREY HILLS	22.62	16.93	5.69
BLACK MOUNTAIN RANCH	12.57	6.76	5.80
TJUANA RIVER VALLEY	23.23	17.42	5.82
SCRIPPS MIRAMAR RANCH	25.61	19.42	6.19

Climate Action Plan Goals





Interactive Street Tree Inventory Map

- Explore climate resilient annual benefits for each tree
 - Carbon capture
 - Pollution removal
 - Avoided stormwater runoff
- Learn about species in your neighborhood
- Visit <https://san-diego-street-tree-inventory-arboraccess.hub.arcgis.com/>



Explore San Diego's Street Trees

This interactive map showcases the total annual benefits of the trees in your area. The tool displays a comprehensive layer showing tree locations. **Click on any tree to see its environmental and urban benefits.**

The City of San Diego's Street Tree Inventory

Total Trees	Unique Species	Estimated Value
258,979	671	\$613,932,642

Environmental Benefits at a Glance

Our trees provide a wide range of environmental benefits to the entire City of San Diego community and beyond.

Carbon Capture 8,037,413 pounds per year valued at \$1,479,650* per year	Pollution Removal 1,982,897 ounces per year valued at \$502,978* per year
Total Annual Benefits \$2,258,781* per year	Avoided Runoff 6,381,149 gallons per year valued at \$57,043* per year

*Values represent reflect the estimated cost savings or avoided expenses for the community, such as reduced energy use, water management and pollution mitigation, based on 2016 calculations.

Tree Benefits Applications

Users provide countless benefits. Using various online maps such as a dashboard and web maps, we are able to visualize and quantify the benefits.

Tree Benefits Web Map and Dashboard

Explore San Diego's diverse street tree inventory with our interactive map. View the city's tree inventory and see real-time benefits of each tree. As you move around the map, the benefits update automatically. Use filters to view specific tree species or project areas.

[Tree Benefits Dashboard](#)

Carbon Storage	142,943,044.4	Number of Trees	258,948
Pollution Removal	1,981,915.2	Estimated Value	\$613,932,642
Avoided Runoff	6,375,818.4		
Carbon Sequestration	8,032,149.9		

Tree Benefits Heat Map

Use our interactive heat map to explore the annual benefits of trees in your area. View layers showing avoided runoff, carbon storage and oxygen production. Use the range tool to compare the map with tree quantities for a clear view of their benefits across the area.

[Heat Map](#)

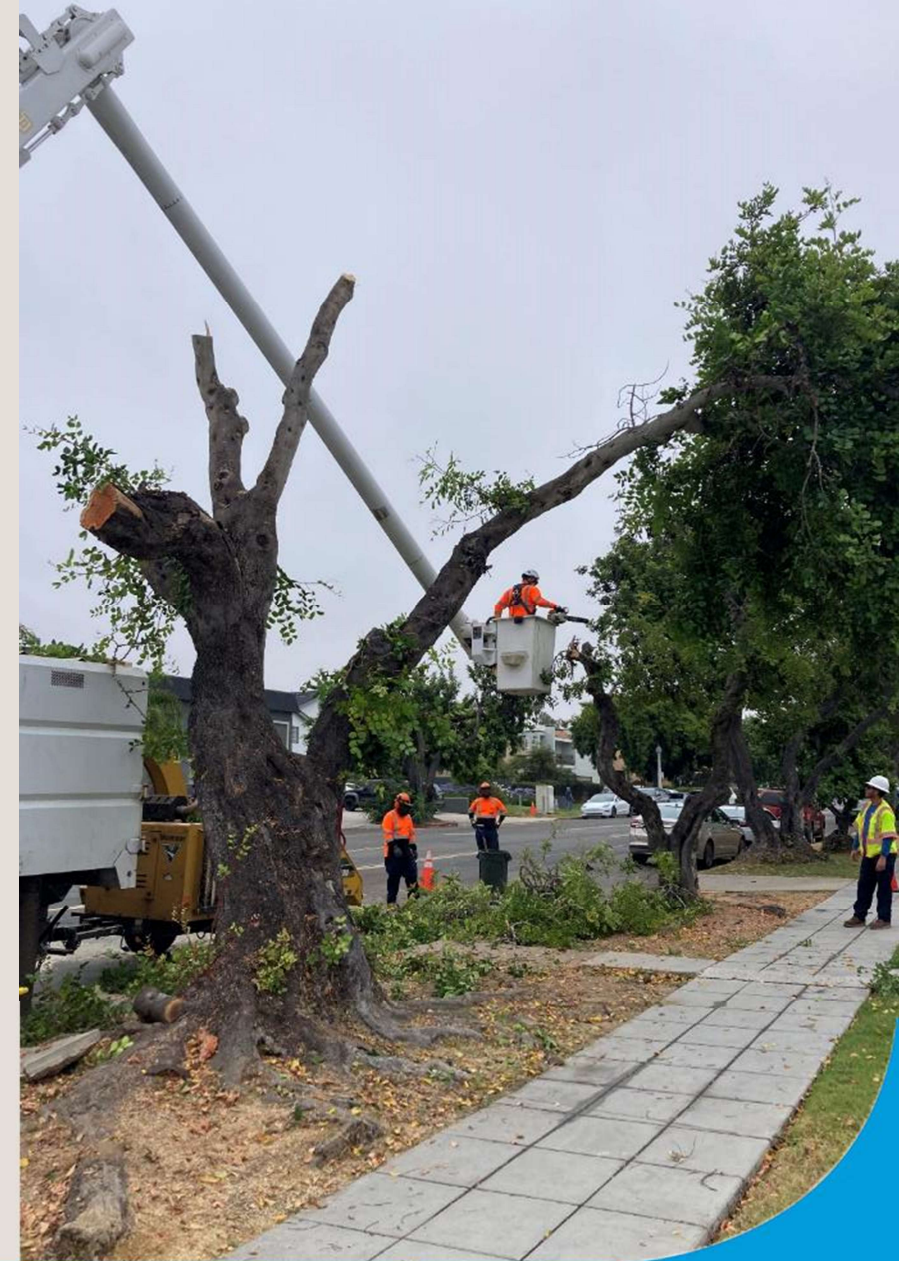
Operations

- City Forester – Transportation Department
 - Manage the Transportation Forestry Operations
 - All City trees under City Forester jurisdiction
- 31 staff dedicated to citywide forestry
 - Over half maintain tree infrastructure for tree health and public safety
- 600K+ trees in parks, 250K+ street trees
- Dedicated planting programs
- Arborist, Get It Done
 - *San Diego street trees valued at \$613 million, 671 unique species



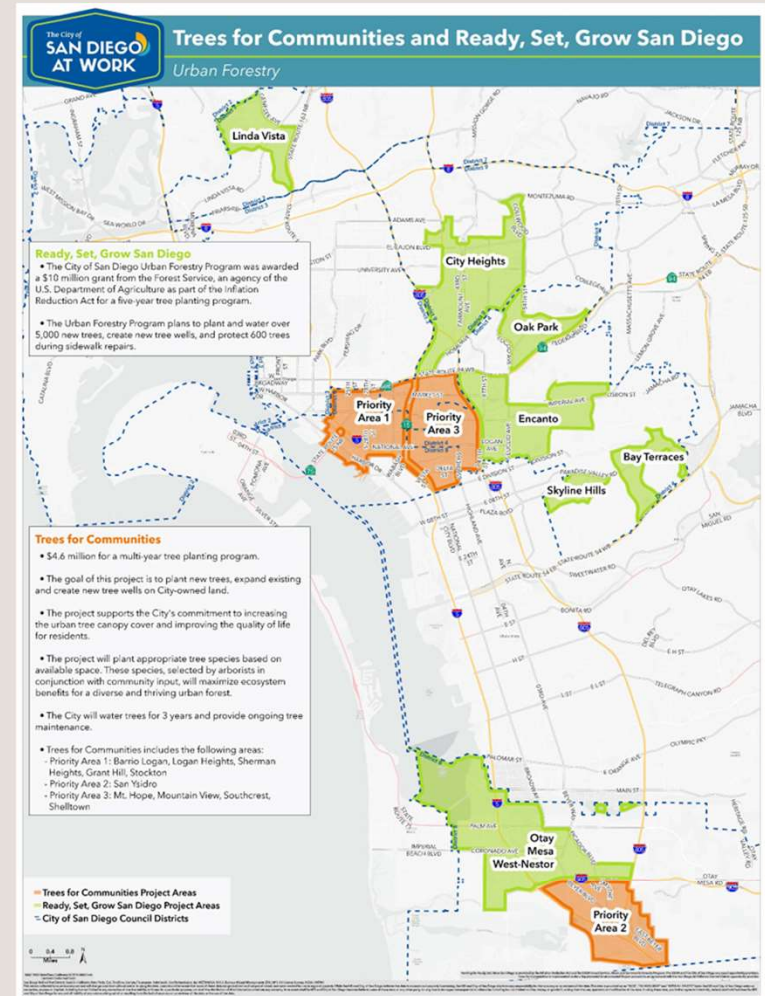
Tree Maintenance Team

- Tree maintenance - routine & by requests
- First responders for emergency response
 - Storm response - both rain and wind
 - Normal hours, after hours, weekends
 - Get it Done or Ask Parks requests
- Contractual work
 - Street pruning cycle: palms = 2 years
 - Street pruning cycle: shade = greater than 20 years
 - Emergency backup



Significant Tree Planting Efforts

- **Trees For Communities - \$4.69M** to plant and water trees in all feasible locations to mitigate air pollution - includes 160 new tree wells - 2,800 trees planted
- **Ready, Set, Grow San Diego - \$10M** grant to plant and water trees, plus protect over 300 existing trees - over 5,000 trees planted
- **Community Engagement & Addressing Equity** under both projects



Tree Planting & Volunteer Events

Arbor Day

- 4th Friday of April
- Gompers Park - 2026
 - 68 new park & street trees
- Gold Leaf Award Recipient

Kate Sessions Day

- On or around November 8
- Oak Park Community Park - 2025
 - 42 new street and parks trees



Get Involved

- Attend stewardship activities and events
 - sandiego.gov/trees/events
- Participate in tree-related discussions
 - Community Forest Advisory Board
 - 2nd Wednesday, 10-11:30 a.m.
 - Malcolm X Library
- Report concerns about City trees
 - Get It Done
- Apply for a permit to plant or maintain trees in the City right-of-way
 - sandiego.gov/StreetTreePermit





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Learn more at: sandiego.gov/Trees

