

**CLAREMONT COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMISSION TREE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

“We are a vibrant, livable, and inclusive community dedicated to quality services, safety, financial strength, sustainability, preservation, and progress with equal representation for our community.”

City Council Chamber
225 Second Street
Claremont, CA 91711



Thursday
April 16, 2026
5:30 PM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NANCY BROWER

RUSS BINDER

BRISA SIFUENTES

Meetings are open to the public for in-person attendance. The Brown Act provides for an opportunity for members of the public to address the Tree Committee concerning the items described below.

Members of the public who wish to address the Tree Committee on any matter listed on the agenda or on a subject matter within the jurisdiction of the Tree Committee may utilize the following methods. The Tree Committee requests but does not require that public speakers identify themselves.

OPTIONS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment may be provided by one of the following methods. Each speaker will be given up to three (3) minutes to provide their comment.

IN-PERSON LIVE COMMENTS

When the item you wish to speak to is announced, please proceed to the speaker's podium one by one.

E-MAIL/MAIL

Written comments sent to the Community Services Department will be distributed to the Tree Committee and imaged into the record of the meeting. Email: dross@claremontca.gov and jswan@claremontca.gov. Mail: PO Box 880, Claremont CA 91711. Written comments submitted after publication of the agenda will be made available in the document archive system on the City website as soon as possible: www.claremontca.gov.

For assistance, comments, or more information please contact Dawn Ross, Committee Secretary, (909) 399-5305.

CALL TO ORDER THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CEREMONIAL MATTERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Tree Committee has set aside this time for persons in the audience to comment on items that are not listed on the agenda, but are within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Members of the audience will have the opportunity to address the Committee regarding all items on the agenda at the time the Committee considers those items.

General public comment will be taken for 30 minutes and will resume later in the meeting if there are speakers who did not get an opportunity to speak because of the 30-minute time limit.

The Brown Act prohibits the Committee from taking action on oral requests relating to items that are not on the agenda. The Committee may engage in a brief discussion, refer the matter to staff, and/or schedule requests for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed on the consent calendar are considered to be routine. The Tree Committee may act on these items by one motion following public comment. Only Committee Members may pull an item from the consent calendar for discussion.

1. TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2026

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Tree Committee approve and file the regular Tree Committee Meeting minutes of March 18, 2026.

Attachment(s): 03-18-26 Draft Tree Committee Meeting Minutes

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2. SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTING OF URBAN FOREST ACTIVITIES: JULY-DECEMBER 2025

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Tree Committee recommend that the Community and Human Services Commission receive and file this report.

Attachment(s): Trees Planted by Address - July to December 2025
Trees Removed by Address - July to December 2025

3. URBAN FOREST UPDATE

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Tree Committee recommend that the Community and Human Services Commission receive and file this report.

CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENT

This time is reserved for those persons who were unable to speak earlier in the agenda because of the 30-minute time restriction.

ADJOURNMENT

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD ON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026, AT 6:00 PM IN THE CLAREMONT COUNCIL CHAMBER, 225 WEST SECOND STREET, CLAREMONT, CA 91711.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990, THIS AGENDA WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN APPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVE FORMATS TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. ANY PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO REQUIRES A MODIFICATION OR ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN A CITY MEETING SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK AT 909-399-5461 "VOICE" OR 1-800-735-2929 "TT/TTY" AT LEAST THREE (3) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING, IF POSSIBLE.

I, DAWN BONNELL ROSS, SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OF THE CITY OF CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA, HEREBY CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FOREGOING AGENDA WAS POSTED AT CLAREMONT CITY HALL, 207 HARVARD AVENUE, ON THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.

POST THROUGH: APRIL 17, 2026



Claremont Community and Human Services Commission Tree Committee

Agenda Report

File #: 5950

Item No: 1.

TO: TREE COMMITTEE

FROM: JEREMY SWAN, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

DATE: APRIL 16, 2026

SUBJECT:

TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2026

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Tree Committee approve and file the regular Tree Committee Meeting minutes of March 18, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCESS

The agenda and staff report for this item have been posted on the City website and distributed to interested parties. If you desire a copy, please contact the Community Services Department.

Submitted by:

Prepared by:

Jeremy Swan
Community Services Director

Dawn Bonnell Ross
Senior Administrative Assistant

Attachment:

03-18-26 Draft Tree Committee Meeting Minutes

**CLAREMONT TREE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM

City Hall Council Chamber, 225 W. Second Street, Claremont, California

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brower called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

COMMITTEE MEMBER: BINDER, BROWER, SIFUENTES

ABSENT:

COMMITTEE MEMBER: NONE

ALSO PRESENT:

Cari Dillman, Community Services Manager
Richard Hecker, Landscape Maintenance Supervisor
Dawn Ross, Senior Administrative Assistant
Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director

CEREMONIAL MATTERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Brower invited public comment.

Dawn Ross, Senior Administrative Assistant, announced that no written public comment had been received.

There were no requests to speak.

Chair Brower closed public comment.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Brower invited public comment on the Consent Calendar.

Senior Administrative Assistant Ross announced that no written public comment had been received on the Consent Calendar.

There were no requests to speak.

Chair Brower closed public comment.

Committee Member Sifuentes moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Committee Member Binder, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: ***Committee Member – Binder, Brower, Sifuentes***

NOES: ***Committee Member – None***

1. Tree Committee Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2026

Approved and filed the regular Tree Committee meeting minutes of February 18, 2026.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

2. Request for Tree Removal – 347 Indiana Avenue

Cari Dillman, Community Services Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Manager Dillman; Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director; and Richard Hecker, Landscape Maintenance Supervisor and certified Arborist; responded to questions from the Committee regarding the history of Canary Island pine tree failure in the Indiana Avenue/Michigan Drive neighborhood as compared to in the Claraboya area, how this tree compares to or differs from the Claraboya trees, whether staff is able to confirm the wind patterns presented by the property owner and how wind patterns may differ in different areas, whether staff spoke with other residents on Michigan Drive regarding the proposed removal, when the tree is next scheduled for grid trimming, whether the arborists observed any birds or wildlife when inspecting the tree, how removal of the tree would be handled if signs of wildlife were present, and the property owner's options to appeal if the request is denied.

Chair Brower invited public comment.

Dawn Ross, Senior Administrative Assistant, announced that three written public comments had been received on this item.

Fred Roth noted no apparent recent disturbance to the curb or sidewalk near the tree. Dr. Roth suggests removing a previously replaced portion of sidewalk to assess the condition of the tree's roots.

Richard Suter, property owner, stated that in the last five years, eight trees have failed or been removed on Indiana Avenue following windstorms. Mr. Suter noted that the tree's proximity to the house causes him and his wife to lose sleep because of the possibility of the tree falling on their house, and lack of sleep puts his wife at risk of injury from a fall.

John, Claremont resident, feels the need to balance any concerns regarding the tree with the effect of its removal on the community. The resident understands the property owner's concerns and states that the tree is equally close to his home and that his wife also suffers from health issues keeping her homebound, but he and his wife enjoy the benefits the tree provides and do not wish for it to be removed.

David, Claremont resident, stated that he values living in "The City of Trees," and noted the environmental effects of the tree's removal, such as impact to wildlife and elimination of shade/heat mitigation. The trees in the area are healthy and strong despite recent windstorms, and because the tree leans slightly toward street, it would be more likely to fall in that direction if it falls. The resident asked the Committee to consider the huge personal, community, and environmental impact if the tree were removed.

There were no additional requests to speak.

Chair Brower closed public comment.

The Committee discussed ways to evaluate risk, how to minimize risk while preserving the tree, trying to find a direct link between the tree and loss of life, and the fact that the tree is healthy and does not meet criteria for removal.

Committee Member Sifuentes moved to recommend that the Community and Human Services Commission deny the request for the removal of the Canary Island pine tree at 347 Indiana Avenue, seconded by Chair Brower, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Committee Member – Brower, Sifuentes

NOES: Committee Member – Binder

3. Request for Tree Removal – 2243 N Indian Hill Boulevard

Cari Dillman, Community Services Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Manager Dillman; Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director; and Richard Hecker, Landscape Maintenance Supervisor and certified Arborist; responded to questions from the Committee regarding the history of claims for property damage, the point at which payments for damage claims outweigh the value of the tree, whether there would be an economic benefit to replacing the tree with two new ones, the fact that the tree is showing signs of drought stress but is not in a state of severe decline, whether increased watering will improve the longevity and health of the tree, whether increased watering and subsequent tree growth will cause additional property damage, and whether any documentation has been provided to substantiate claims of health impacts.

Chair Brower invited public comment.

Dawn Ross, Senior Administrative Assistant, announced that no written public comment had been received on this item.

Dan Berens, property owner, stated that he does not have adequate room to park vehicles in the driveway without at least one car being beneath the tree. Mr. Berens expressed concern regarding costs for possible future property damage and trip/fall incidents, and reported that he will continue to file claims for any private property damage.

There were no additional requests to speak.

Chair Brower closed public comment.

The Committee discussed adjusting the previous claim settlements for inflation; reasons cited in the *Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual* as not valid for tree removal, including “[h]ardscape damage if a feasible, economic solution exists to save the tree,” “[n]uisance debris,” “[r]oots getting into the sewer lines resulting from deteriorating infrastructure,” and “[s]urface root intrusion”; and how increased watering may mitigate future damage.

Director Swan, Manager Dillman, and Supervisor Hecker responded to questions from the Committee regarding when the most recent property claim was submitted, whether the root system of the tree is established, the substances dripping from the tree, whether installation of a root barrier would be possible or beneficial, and the City’s policy against treating trees for aesthetic or nuisance complaints.

Committee Member Binder moved to recommend that the Community and Human Services Commission deny the request for the removal of the California sycamore tree at 2243 North Indian Hill Boulevard and asked staff to research the feasibility of installing a root barrier to mitigate further hardscape damage, seconded by Committee Member Sifuentes, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: ***Committee Member – Binder, Brower, Sifuentes***
NOES: ***Committee Member – None***

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brower adjourned the meeting of the Tree Committee at 7:25 PM. The next regular meeting of the Tree Committee will be held on April 15, 2026.

Chair

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary



Claremont Community and Human Services Commission Tree Committee

Agenda Report

File #: 5951

Item No: 2.

TO: TREE COMMITTEE

FROM: JEREMY SWAN, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

DATE: APRIL 16, 2026

SUBJECT:

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTING OF URBAN FOREST ACTIVITIES: JULY-DECEMBER 2025

SUMMARY

The City's *Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual* requires staff to bring forth a monthly report of newly planted and removed trees. This practice has been completed over the past several years to provide transparency to the City's planting and removal practices. On a semi-annual basis, a reporting of urban forest maintenance activities will be presented. Included in this report are urban forest maintenance activities for the six-month period of July 1, 2025-December 31, 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Tree Committee recommend that the Community and Human Services Commission receive and file this report.

ALTERNATIVE TO RECOMMENDATION

In addition to the recommendation, there is the following alternative:

- Refer the item back to staff for additional information.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The staff cost to prepare this report is estimated at \$1,350 and is included in the operating budget of the Community Services Department.

ANALYSIS

Background

The City's *Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual* describes the day-to-day management of the urban forest. The Manual describes the responsibilities of the City Council, Community and Human Services Commission, City staff, and the community. City staff is responsible for the removal of City trees that are hazardous, dead, or severely declining; the replanting of removed trees; and all trimming activities. Additionally, staff has the authority to remove trees if hardscape/infrastructure repairs cannot be completed without severe root pruning that would jeopardize the health and stability of the tree. The tree may be removed only after all mitigation measures have been considered. Per the Manual, City staff is to provide a monthly report to the Community and Human Services Commission of trees planted and removed each month. The purpose of this requirement is to provide transparency and show equity between removals and plantings over time. This report will include the six-month period of July 1, 2025-December 31, 2025.

Urban Forest Activities - July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Trimming

Proper tree trimming is essential to a tree's health and structural integrity, which in turn mitigate the risk of tree and/or limb failure. The City uses three types of trimming: grid, select, and young tree trimming. During the period of July 1 to December 31, 2025, approximately 3,050 trees were trimmed.

Grid Trimming - Grid trimming occurs in November through June, when the weather is generally cooler. As of July 1, 2022, the City moved to a 5-year trim cycle. In fiscal year 2025-26, Grid 2 was scheduled for trimming. Grid 2 includes the area south of Foothill Boulevard to 1st Street and from the eastern City boundary to the western City boundary. During this reporting period, 2,945 trees were trimmed under the grid-trimming program.

Select Trimming - On occasion, trees require trimming outside of the regular grid-trimming schedule. This type of trimming is considered select trimming. Select trimming is used for pedestrian, vehicle, or sight clearance; structural pruning; or rebalancing. During this reporting period, 101 trees were select trimmed.

Young Tree Care - All newly-planted trees receive a good structural pruning approximately one year after planting. Properly trained trees will develop into structurally sound trees well suited for the urban environment. Young tree care is included in the count for select trim.

Wildlife - Wildlife nesting season runs from February through November of each year. Due to the quantity of trees included in grid trimming, it is almost impossible to complete trimming by the end of February, when nesting season begins. The City's tree maintenance contractor, West Coast Arborists, Inc. (WCA), takes the nesting season very seriously. When WCA crews come across signs of nesting activity, that tree is skipped and scheduled for trimming when all nesting activity has subsided. During this reporting period, no trees with nesting birds were identified.

Tree Trimming 6-month Comparison				
Year	Period	Grid	Select	Total
2019	July 1 - Dec 31	239	512	751
	Jan - June 30	3752	1170	4922
		3991	1682	5673
2020	July 1 - Dec 31	901	1090	1991
	Jan - June 30	2811	3769	6580
		3712	4859	8571
2021	July 1 - Dec 31	518	595	1113
	Jan - June 30	3147	448	3595
		3665	1043	4708
2022	July 1 - Dec 31	264	336	600
	Jan - June 30	3495	475	3970
		3759	811	4570
2023	July 1 - Dec 31	501	85	586
	Jan - June 30	3380	636	4016
		3881	721	4602
2024	July 1 - Dec 31	1425	532	1957
	Jan - June 30	3079	133	3212
		4504	665	5169
2025	July 1 - Dec 31	2183	315	2498
	Jan - June 30	3523	307	3930
		5806	622	6428
2026*	July 1 - Dec 31	2945	101	3046
	Jan - June 30			

*Reflects the 6-month period of July-Dec 2025

Plantings

The City's typical planting season is November through April each year, depending on weather conditions. Plantings occur during this time to take advantage of the cooler, wetter weather. The City plants 15-gallon size trees, but larger trees may be purchased at the resident's expense. Each tree planting includes staking, tying, watering for the first 90 days, and a watering bag at the end of the 90-day watering period. If the tree is planted in an irrigated area, such as turf, the new tree may not receive a water bag, as placing a water bag on an irrigated tree may lead to overwatering.

During the months of July through December 2025, 68 trees were planted. The total cost to plant all 68 trees was \$15,840. Through the Residential Pay Program, one property owner paid \$1,100 to upgrade to a 36"-box-sized tree. The City paid for the planting of the remaining 67 trees at a combined cost of \$14,740. The list of trees planted is included as Attachment A.



*Reflects the 6-month period of July - Dec 2025

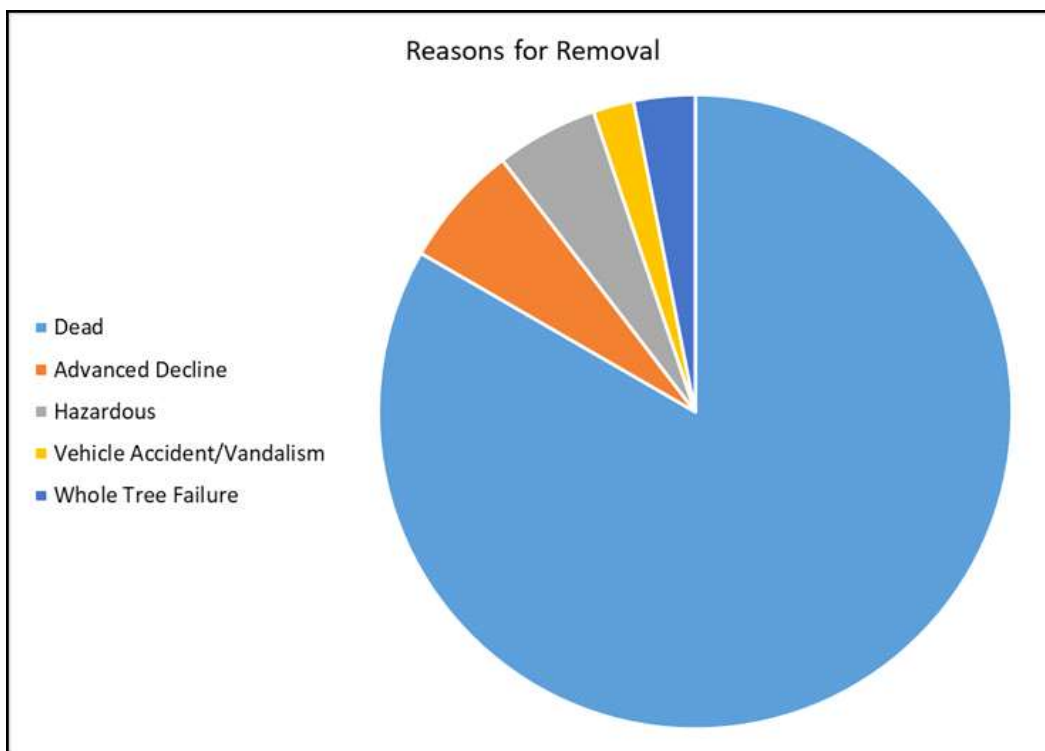
Tree Planting 6-month Comparison		
Year	Period	Total
2019	July 1 - Dec 31	287
	Jan 1 - June 30	484
		771
2020	July 1 - Dec 31	84
	Jan 1 - June 30	71
		155
2021	July 1 - Dec 31	2
	Jan - June 30	161
		163
2022	July 1 - Dec 31	61
	Jan - June 30	214
		275
2023	July 1 - Dec 31	134
	Jan - June 30	308
		442
2024	July 1 - Dec 31	170
	Jan - June 30	90
		260
2025	July 1 - Dec 31	91
	Jan - June 30	115
		206
2026*	July 1 - Dec 31	68
	Jan - June 30	
		68

*Reflects the 6-month period of July - Dec 2025

Removals

It is the City’s policy to protect and preserve healthy trees whenever possible; however, preservation of City trees is not always possible, and removal may be necessary. Staff has the authority to remove trees if they are dead, in a state of advanced decline, or hazardous. Additionally, staff has the authority to remove trees if hardscape/infrastructure repairs cannot be completed without severe root pruning that would jeopardize the health and stability of the tree. The tree may be removed only after all mitigation measures have been considered. During July through December 2025, 96 trees were removed. All 96 trees were removed from the City’s parks or public rights-of-way. Of the 96 trees removed, 8 trees were removed by City staff at no cost. The remaining 88 trees were removed by WCA. The cost for WCA to remove these 88 trees was \$58,355. The list of trees removed is included as Attachment B.

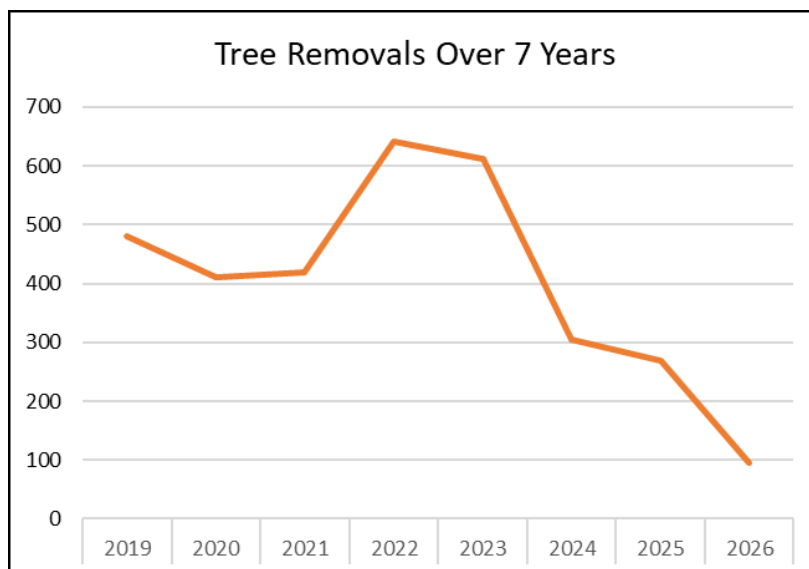
Below is a chart that shows reasons for removal during this reporting period:



The charts below show tree removals over time:

Tree Removals 6-month Comparison		
Year	Period	Total
2019	July 1 - Dec 31	194
	Jan 1 - June 30	287
		481
2020	July 1 - Dec 31	285
	Jan 1 - June 30	126
		411
2021	July 1 - Dec 31	216
	Jan 1 - June 30	203
		419
2022	July 1 - Dec 31	147
	Jan 1 - June 30	494
		641
2023	July 1 - Dec 31	333
	Jan 1 - June 30	279
		612
2024	July 1 - Dec 31	164
	Jan 1 - June 30	140
		304
2025	July 1 - Dec 31	108
	Jan - June 30	160
		268
2026*	July 1 - Dec 31	96
	Jan - June 30	
		96

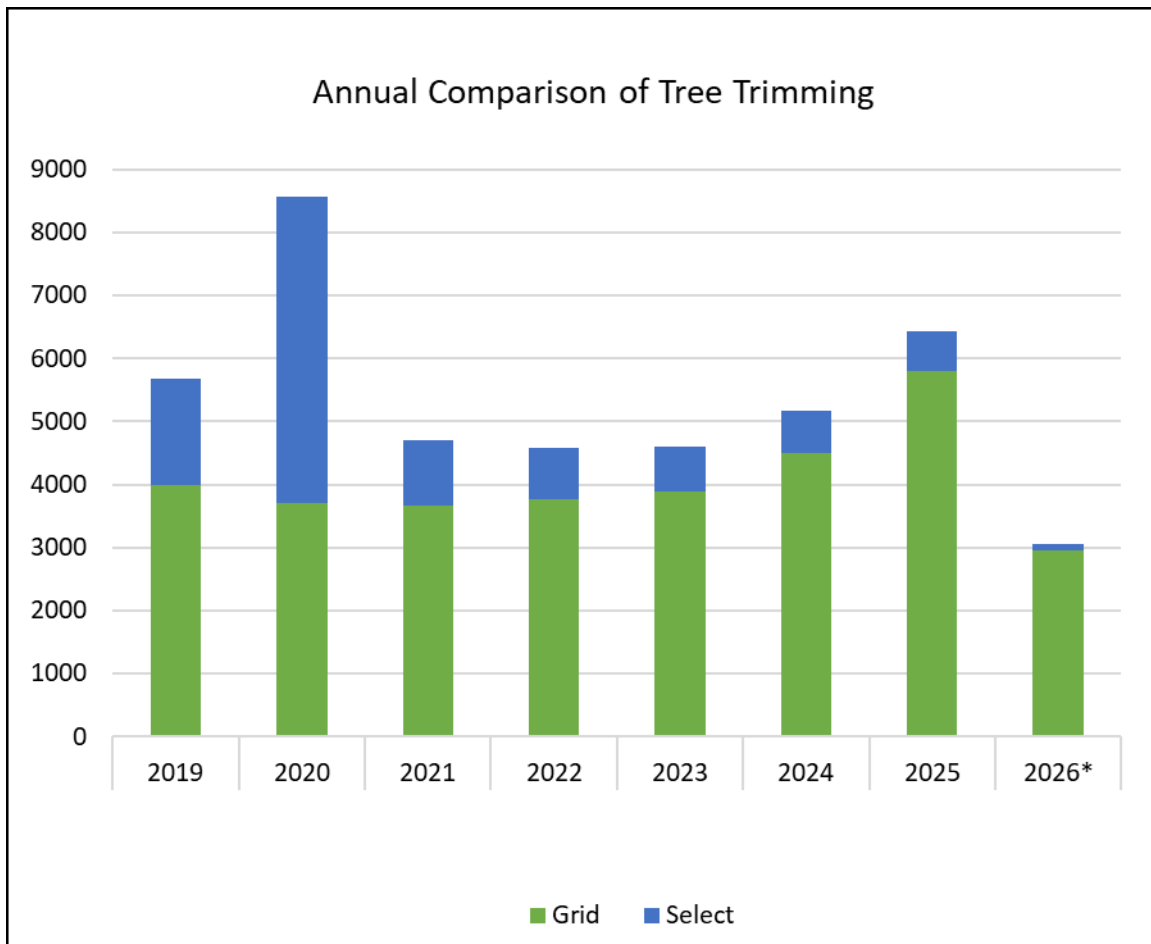
*Reflects the 6-month period of July-Dec 2025



*Reflects the 6-month period of July-Dec 2025

Comparison Charts

Below is a graph that compares annual tree trimming activities by type:

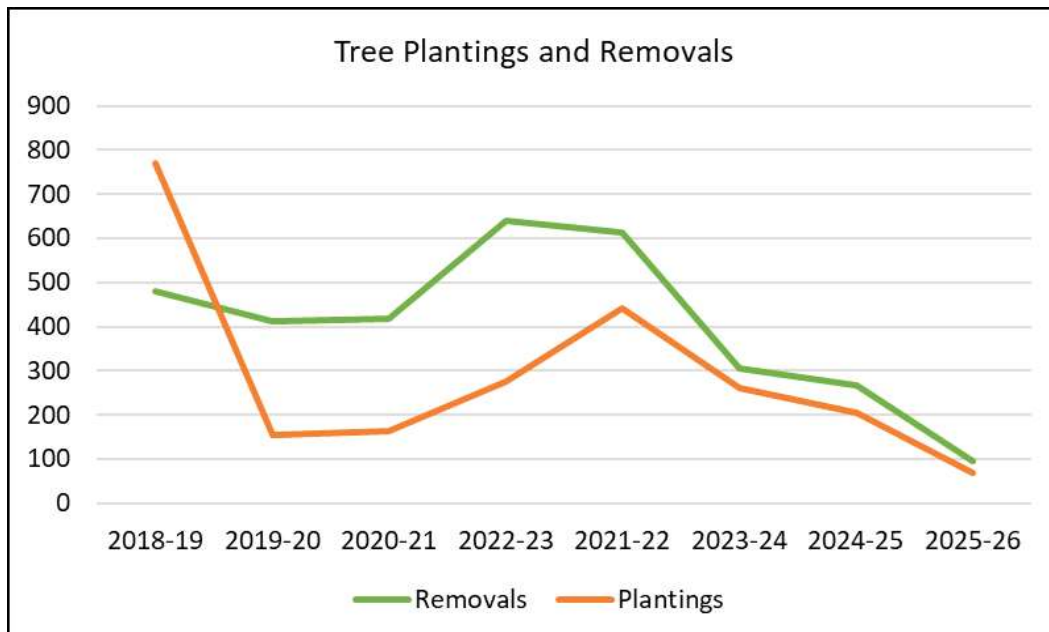


*Reflects the 6-month period of July-Dec 2025

The next two charts compare annual tree plantings and removals. Plantings will show greater numbers in past years due to availability of grant funds for tree planting. Grant funds for planting have now expired, so planting numbers were lower in recent years. Moving forward, the City has included funding for plantings in the Community Services Department budget.



*Reflects the 6-month period of July-Dec 2025



*Reflects the 6-month period of July-Dec 2025

CEQA REVIEW

This item is not subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCESS

The agenda and staff report for this item have been posted on the City website and distributed to interested parties. If you desire a copy, please contact the Community Services Department.

Submitted by:

Prepared by:

Jeremy Swan
Community Services Director

Cari Dillman
Community Services Manager

Attachments:

A - Trees Planted by Address - July to December 2025

B - Trees Removed by Address - July to December 2025

Trees Planted by Address – July through December 2025

Address	Botanical Name	Common Name
272 11th St /W	Chionanthus Retusus	Chinese Fringe Tree
321 12th St /W	Ginkgo Biloba 'Fairmont'	Fairmont Ginkgo
343 12th St /W	Chionanthus Retusus	Chinese Fringe Tree
343 12th St /W	Chionanthus Retusus	Chinese Fringe Tree
343 12th St /W	Chionanthus Retusus	Chinese Fringe Tree
343 12th St /W	Chionanthus Retusus	Chinese Fringe Tree
535 12th St /W	Ginkgo Biloba 'Fairmont'	Fairmont Ginkgo
625 12th St /W	Cercis Canadensis 'Oklahoma'	Oklahoma Redbud
325 1st St /W	Lophostemon Confertus	Brisbane Box
711 9th St /W	Ulmus Americana 'Valley Forge'	Valley Forge Elm
337 Andover Dr	Chionanthus Retusus	Chinese Fringe Tree
337 Andover Dr	Chionanthus Retusus	Chinese Fringe Tree
225 Armstrong Dr	Chionanthus Retusus	Chinese Fringe Tree
225 Armstrong Dr	Chilopsis Linearis 'Desert Carpet'	Burgandy Desert Willow
235 Armstrong Dr	Ginkgo Biloba 'Fairmont'	Fairmont Ginkgo
235 Armstrong Dr	Ginkgo Biloba 'Fairmont'	Fairmont Ginkgo
246 Arrow Hwy /E	Chilopsis Linearis 'Desert Diva'	Desert Diva Desert Willow
579 Aurora Dr	Parkinsonia X 'Desert Museum'	Desert Museum Palo Verde
515 Baughman Av	Lagerstroemia Indica 'Tuscarora'	Tuscarora Crape Myrtle
1105 Baughman Dr	Acacia Baileyana	Bailey Acacia
532 Black Hills Dr	Ginkgo Biloba 'Autumn Gold'	Autumn Gold Ginkgo
262 Blue Mountain Wy	Chitalpa Tashkentensis 'Morning Cloud'	Morning Cloud Chitalpa
230 Bonita Av /W	Lagerstroemia Indica 'Dynamite'	Dynamite Crape Myrtle
160 Brown Dr	Lophostemon Confertus	Brisbane Box
160 Brown Dr	Lophostemon Confertus	Brisbane Box
304 Carleton Av	Cercis Occidentalis	Western Redbud
1940 Chapman Rd	Pyrus Calleryana 'Chanticleer'	Chanticleer Pear
616 Charleston Dr	Handroanthus Chrysotrichus	Golden Trumpet Tree
616 Charleston Dr	Handroanthus Chrysotrichus	Golden Trumpet Tree
595 Clarion Pl	Ginkgo Biloba 'Autumn Gold'	Autumn Gold Ginkgo
831 Culmore St	Koelreuteria Bipinnata	Chinese Flame Tree
604 Doane Av	Cercis Canadensis 'Oklahoma'	Oklahoma Redbud
2114 Forbes Av	Lophostemon Confertus	Brisbane Box
443 Greensboro Ct	Lagerstroemia Indica 'Muskogee'	Muskogee Crape Myrtle
335 Indiana Av	Arbutus 'Marina'	Marina Arbutus
955 Kent Dr	Parkinsonia X 'Desert Museum'	Desert Museum Palo Verde
313 Lee Av	Ginkgo Biloba 'Autumn Gold'	Autumn Gold Ginkgo
1034 Maryhurst Dr	Arbutus 'Marina'	Marina Arbutus
1034 Maryhurst Dr	Arbutus 'Marina'	Marina Arbutus
896 Marymount Ln	Cercis Canadensis 'Forest Pansy'	Forest Pansy Redbud

Trees Planted by Address – July through December 2025

135 Nassau Pl	Lophostemon Confertus	Brisbane Box
135 Nassau Pl	Lophostemon Confertus	Brisbane Box
569 Occidental Dr	Ginkgo Biloba 'Fairmont'	Fairmont Ginkgo
133 Princeton Av	Pistacia Chinensis 'Red Push'	Red Push Pistache
616 Purdue Dr	Handroanthus Heptaphyllus	Pink Trumpet Tree
162 Radcliffe Dr /E	Quercus Rubra	Red Oak
1889 Radford Av	Lagerstroemia Indica 'Tuskegee'	Tuskegee Crape Myrtle
1071 Richmond Dr	Pistacia Chinensis 'Red Push'	Red Push Pistache
655 Ridgefield Dr	Lagerstroemia Indica 'Tuscarora'	Tuscarora Crape Myrtle
1934 Rosemount Av	Quercus Ilex	Holly Oak
233 San Jose Av /E	Prosopis Chilensis 'Thornless'	Thornless Chilean Mesquite
760 San Jose Av /W	Arbutus 'Marina'	Marina Arbutus
578 Scottsbluff Dr	Koelreuteria Paniculata	Goldenrain Tree
506 Sebastopol St	Chilopsis Linearis	Desert Willow
1533 Seneca Pl	Lagerstroemia Indica X Fauriei 'Muskogee'	Lavender Crape Myrtle
415 Taylor Dr	Melaleuca Linariifolia	Flaxleaf Paperbark
4007 Tenango Rd	Chionanthus Retusus	Chinese Fringe Tree
4007 Tenango Rd	Chionanthus Retusus	Chinese Fringe Tree
1665 Towne Av	Pistacia Chinensis 'Red Push'	Red Push Pistache
1850 Towne Av	Lagerstroemia Indica 'Dynamite'	Dynamite Crape Myrtle
1850 Towne Av	Lagerstroemia Indica 'Dynamite'	Dynamite Crape Myrtle
1016 Trevecca Pl	Koelreuteria Bipinnata	Chinese Flame Tree
162 Villanova Dr /E	Chionanthus Retusus	Chinese Fringe Tree
2712 Westfield Pl	Jacaranda Mimosifolia	Jacaranda
1204 Yale Av	Ginkgo Biloba 'Fairmont'	Fairmont Ginkgo
1204 Yale Av	Ginkgo Biloba 'Fairmont'	Fairmont Ginkgo
1204 Yale Av	Ginkgo Biloba 'Fairmont'	Fairmont Ginkgo
1204 Yale Av	Ginkgo Biloba 'Fairmont'	Fairmont Ginkgo

Trees Removed by Address – July through December 2026

Address	Common Name	Reason
167 Sequoia Ct	Ornamental Pear	Advanced Decline
576 Miramar Av	Arizona Ash	Advanced Decline
1144 Harvard Av	American Elm	Advanced Decline
532 Black Hills Dr	Chinese Sweetgum	Advanced Decline
178 Fairfield Dr /E	Red Oak	Advanced Decline
896 Marymount Ln	Wilson Holly	Advanced Decline
133 Princeton Av	Red Push Pistache	Dead
604 Doane Av	Desert Museum Palo Verde	Dead
Oak Park Cemetery	Southern Live Oak	Dead
439 8th St /W	Mexican Redbud	Dead
1666 Barnard Rd	Pink Trumpet Tree	Dead
680 San Jose Av /W	Marina Arbutus	Dead
305 8th St /W	Marina Arbutus	Dead
319 6th St /W	Coast Live Oak	Dead
700 Base Line Rd /W	Chitalpa	Dead
262 Blue Mountain Wy	Tulip Tree	Dead
45 Elder Dr	Crape Myrtle	Dead
2203 Grand Av	Crape Myrtle	Dead
1404 Mountain Av /N	Southern Magnolia	Dead
1417 Mural Dr	Crape Myrtle	Dead
996 Reed Dr	Aristocrat Pear	Dead
414 Saint Bonaventure St	Tulip Tree	Dead
417 Saint Bonaventure St	Tulip Tree	Dead
711 Santa Clara Av	Maidenhair Tree	Dead
Thompson Creek Trail South	Coast Live Oak	Dead
Thompson Creek Trail South	Coast Live Oak	Dead
867 Yuba Ln	Silver Maple	Dead
231 10th St /E	American Sweetgum	Dead
668 12th St /W	American Sweetgum	Dead
200 1st St /W	California Sycamore	Dead
525 Arrow Hwy /W	American Sweetgum	Dead
291 Brooks Av	Crape Myrtle	Dead
125 Bryn Mawr Rd	American Sweetgum	Dead
800 Dartmouth Av /N	American Sweetgum	Dead
4107 Garey Av	Carob	Dead
158 Limestone Rd	Raywood Ash	Dead
340 Mills Av /N	Crape Myrtle	Dead
340 Mills Av /N	Crape Myrtle	Dead
340 Mills Av /N	Crape Myrtle	Dead
1458 Mountain Av /N	Southern Magnolia	Dead

Trees Removed by Address – July through December 2026

909 Reed Dr	California Bay	Dead
318 Springfield St	American Sweetgum	Dead
Blaisdell Park	Olive	Dead
952 Butte St	Tulip Tree	Dead
550 Converse Av	American Sweetgum	Dead
1110 Dartmouth Av /N	American Sweetgum	Dead
1110 Dartmouth Av /N	American Sweetgum	Dead
Higginbotham Park	California Pepper	Dead
1000 Foothill Bl /W	Crape Myrtle	Dead
2114 Forbes Av	Crape Myrtle	Dead
255 10th St /W	Forest Pansy Redbud	Dead
325 1st St /W	Brisbane Box	Dead
230 Bonita Av /W	Ornamental Pear	Dead
Cahuilla Park	California Sycamore	Dead
Cahuilla Park	California Sycamore	Dead
421 Miramar Av	Red Oak	Dead
4300 Mt Baldy Rd	Eastern Redbud	Dead
655 Ridgefield Dr	Crape Myrtle	Dead
233 San Jose Av /E	Rio Grande Ash	Dead
760 San Jose Av /W	Marina Arbutus	Dead
272 11th St /W	Incense Cedar	Dead
200 1st St /W	Purple-Leaf Plum	Dead
140 8th St /W	Tulip Tree	Dead
711 9th St /W	Tulip Tree	Dead
1339 Appalachian	Strawberry Tree	Dead
225 Armstrong Dr	Red Oak	Dead
1105 Baughman Dr	American Sweetgum	Dead
2136 Brescia Av	American Sweetgum	Dead
2136 Brescia Av	American Sweetgum	Dead
831 Culmore St	American Sweetgum	Dead
950 Harrison Av	American Sweetgum	Dead
440 Lee Av	American Sweetgum	Dead
1538 Mural Dr	Crape Myrtle	Dead
1538 Mural Dr	Crape Myrtle	Dead
1071 Richmond Dr	Ornamental Pear	Dead
489 Salisbury Ln	Ornamental Pear	Dead
2479 San Fernando Ct	Chinese Pistache	Dead
506 Sebastopol St	American Sweetgum	Dead
Thompson Creek Trail North	California Sycamore	Dead
1204 Yale Av	American Sweetgum	Dead
1223 Yale Av	Shoestring Acacia	Dead

Trees Removed by Address – July through December 2026

147 Yale Av	Chinese Pistache	Dead
1918 Bridgeport Av	Gold Medallion	Dead
400 Foothill Bl /W	Torrey Pine	Dead
714 Vassar Dr	Victorian Box	Dead
2201 Mills Av /N	Eastern Redbud	Dead
3412 Elmira Av	Ornamental Pear	Hazardous - Structurally Unstable
Shelton Park	Ornamental Pear	Hazardous - Structurally Unstable
741 Livingston Ct	Ornamental Pear	Hazardous - Structurally Unstable
160 Brown Dr	Goldenrain Tree	Hazardous - Structurally Unstable
125 San Jose Av /W	Modesto Ash	Hazardous - Structurally Unstable
600 Foothill Bl /E	Chinese Pistache	Vehicle Accident
820 Base Line Rd /W	Holly Oak	Vehicle Accident
109 Brown Dr	Goldenrain Tree	Whole Tree Failure
2113 Mercer Ct	Chinese Pistache	Whole Tree Failure
4000 Padua Av	Aleppo Pine	Whole Tree Failure



Claremont Community and Human Services Commission Tree Committee

Agenda Report

File #: 5953

Item No: 3.

TO: TREE COMMITTEE

FROM: JEREMY SWAN, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

DATE: APRIL 16, 2026

SUBJECT:

URBAN FOREST UPDATE

SUMMARY

The Community Services Department is charged with the maintenance and care of the urban forest, including all planting, trimming, removal, and, when necessary, treatment of all City trees. Currently, the City's urban forest is comprised of over 24,230 trees of over 300 unique species, with an estimated value of over \$96.8 million. Each year Community Services staff outlines a maintenance plan for the urban forest based on the *Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual* and best practices of the industry. As staff works through the annual work plan, any changes to the local and regional urban forest are noted, and adjustments to the annual work plan are made as needed. This report serves as an update on the urban forest condition and activities over the past year.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Tree Committee recommend that the Community and Human Services Commission receive and file this report.

ALTERNATIVE TO RECOMMENDATION

In addition to the recommendation, there is the following alternative:

- Refer the matter back to staff for additional information.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The staff cost to prepare this report is estimated at \$950 and is included in the operating budget of the Community Services Department.

ANALYSIS

The Community Services Department is charged with the maintenance and care of the urban forest. Under the direction of the Community Services Director, the Community Services Manager oversees the day-to-day operations of urban forest maintenance. Staffing for urban forest maintenance consists of one full-time Arborist and one full-time Maintenance Craftsworker I. The City Arborist oversees maintenance activities, performs inspections, and plans for the future of the urban forest. Due to the magnitude of the urban forest, the City outsources urban forest maintenance activities, and the City Arborist works closely with the contractor to ensure that the urban forest is maintained to City standards. West Coast Arborists, Inc. (WCA) has been the City's urban forest maintenance contractor for over 15 years.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE URBAN FOREST

As of April 2026, the urban forest consists of approximately 24,230 trees, with a total value of approximately \$96.8 million. Tree value is based on size, location, and species rating.

Tree Count over Time

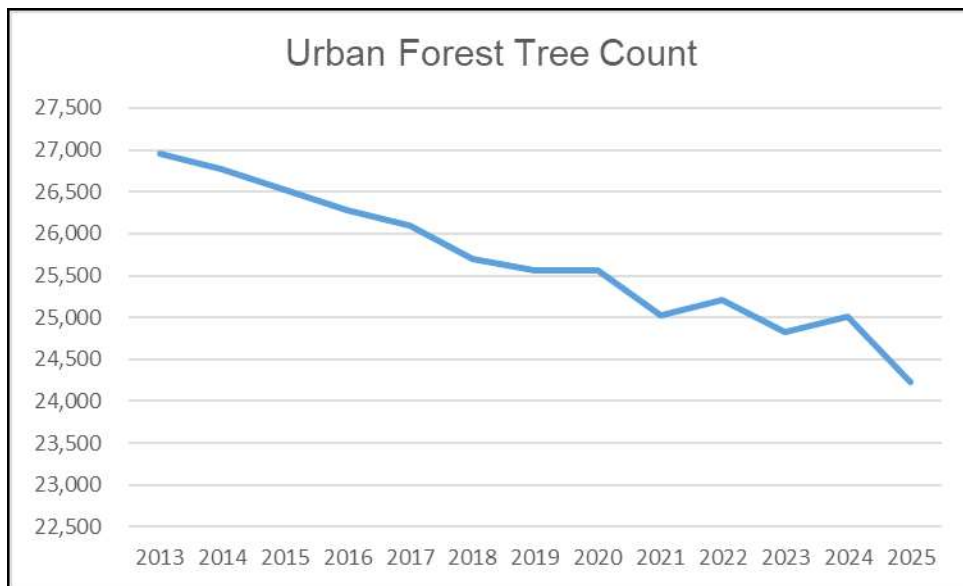
About ten years ago, the urban forest was home to approximately 27,000 trees. Tree removals were primarily determined by the budget, and trees were removed as funding allowed. This meant that many dead, diseased, or hazardous trees were left in the ground until removal funding was available. Tree planting was not mandatory, and funding was limited to 200 trees per year. Additionally, during this time, little outreach was conducted to encourage reforestation.

In 2014, the Liquidambar mitigation plan was approved to begin removing liquidambar trees that showed signs of Xylella. During this time, the trees faced several years of drought and water restrictions, which greatly affected the rate of removal. Mandatory replanting began in 2014. Although trees were planted at the rate they were removed, water restrictions led to property owners not watering newly planted trees. This in turn led to a higher failure rate of young trees.

During 2018-2021, the reforestation program was funded through grant funds, which increased the number of tree plantings and leveled removals versus plantings. In 2019, Invasive Shot Hole Borer was identified in the City, which led to increased removals of affected species. In 2020, during COVID restrictions, there was limited interest in tree plantings.

The significant decline in tree count since 2022 is due to windstorms in January 2022 and January 2025. In 2023 the number of tree plantings was greater than the number of trees removed, which helped to offset a portion of the decline.

Below is a chart showing the number of trees in the urban forest over the past 13 years:



As the urban forest becomes healthier and potentially high-risk trees are slowly removed, staff will increase reforestation outreach with a focus on planting “the right tree in the right place.” Outreach will continue on the proper watering of trees to educate residents on proper watering during the different weather conditions. Healthier trees lead to a healthier, more sustainable urban forest.

Tree Diversity

The types of trees in the urban forest greatly affect the benefits produced, maintenance activities, and the urban forest budget. Based on tree inventory data, Claremont’s urban forest contains over 300 unique species, the top ten species being:

Top 10 Species

Percentage of Urban Forest	Species
8.18%	CRAPE MYRTLE
7.53%	COAST LIVE OAK
5.94%	CALIFORNIA SYCAMORE
3.98%	JACARANDA
3.62%	HOLLY OAK
3.33%	CANARY ISLAND PINE
2.82%	CHINESE PISTACHE
2.71%	AMERICAN SWEETGUM
2.38%	OLIVE
1.95%	MAIDENHAIR

Size and Age Distribution

An urban forest with a wide age range offers a continuous flow of benefits and allows for better planning of urban forest activities. A tree’s age is determined by its diameter at breast height (DBH), or 4.5’ from the base of the tree. Below is the City’s current DBH distribution compared to the ideal distribution according to the U.S. Forest Service:

DBH (inches)	Total	Current Percentage	Ideal Percentage
0–6	5,362	22.1%	40%
7–12	6,468	26.7%	25%
13–18	6,273	25.9%	15%
19–24	2,550	10.5%	10%
25–30	2,771	11.4%	6%
31+	821	3.4%	4%
Total:	24,236		

Because the City’s urban forest age distribution is inconsistent with the ideal, the City should continue replacing trees annually to reach ideal age distribution.

Geographical Distribution

Utilizing a geographic grid system allows staff to plan and budget for routine tree maintenance activities, including trimming and removals. Additionally, grids show where reforestation efforts should be focused. There are five geographical grids. Below is an overview of the number of City trees in each grid:

Grid	2025 Number of Trees	2024 Number of Trees	2023 Number of Trees
1	4,442	4,588	4,558
2	4,983	5,109	5,097
3	6,026	6,241	6,249
4	4,833	4,932	5,072
5	4,042	4,146	4,428
Total:	24,326	25,016	25,404

The City strives to replant all trees that were removed during the prior year, provided they are viable planting sites; however, reforestation is a partnership between property owners and the City. The Claremont Municipal Code requires property owners to water City trees; therefore, if a property owner does not want a new tree, a tree will not be planted because it will likely not be cared for.

Avian Activity

During this reporting cycle, no nesting birds were reported. WCA staff will continue to inspect for nesting activity during maintenance practices. Should the crews come across signs of nesting, a notice will be posted, and no work will be done until there is no evidence of nesting.

Urban Forest Highlights

Liquidambar Mitigation Program

Approximately 12 years ago, liquidambar began showing signs of Xylella dieback. Xylella fastidiosa is a non-curable disease that affects a tree's vascular system. The only cure and prevention of further infection is removal of infected trees. When the program began, there were approximately 2,500 liquidambar in the City; currently, there are approximately 890. In years past, reported liquidambar numbers only included Liquidambar styraciflua (American sweetgums), as they seemed to be the most impacted variety. However, in recent years we have noted that other varieties are showing signs of Xylella dieback. The approximately 890 liquidambar remaining in the City include Liquidambar formosana and Liquidambar styraciflua 'Rotundiloba.'

Each year, the City conducts an assessment of all liquidambar in the City. From this assessment, staff determines which trees require removal. Trees that present 75 percent or greater dieback and trees with dieback in branches greater than 6" in diameter are recommended for removal. Depending on available funding, the threshold for removal is adjusted. Last year, 21 liquidambar were removed, compared to 18 liquidambar in 2024, 33 in 2023, and 45 in 2022. Although Xylella is still present in the City, it is not as prevalent as in years past. This is most likely due to increased watering and routine trimming. The healthier a tree is, the better its ability to fight off disease. Over the next few years, staff anticipates the impact of Xylella on liquidambar will continue to decrease, leading to fewer removals.

Invasive Shot Hole Borer

Invasive Shot Hole Borer (ISHB), once known as the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer, posed a large threat to the City's sycamore and oak tree population. ISHB is an aggressive beetle that bores into trees and introduces a fungus that causes fusarium dieback, much like Xylella, and presents as pinholes in the trunk of the tree. In 2019, the City treated a large population of sycamore and oak trees with an experimental treatment. This treatment did slow the spread of the insect and infection in the City, but some mature sycamores were still lost. Due to cost, the City did not continue with widespread treatment. ISHB activity is less prevalent than in previous years, likely due to increased watering and awareness; however, the City continues to monitor and treat as necessary. Fewer than five trees each year were removed due to ISHB in 2023 and 2022. There were no sycamores removed due to ISHB in 2024 or 2025.

Pine Bark Beetle

A new threat to the City's urban forest is the Pine Bark Beetle, an aggressive and fast-moving insect that feeds on the cambium layer of a pine tree, causing the tree to die back rapidly. Pine Bark Beetle activity increases during warmer months. Treatment is available, but usually by the time symptoms appear, the tree is too far in decline. The best mitigation practice is to remove an infected tree immediately to prevent further spread. In 2023, the City removed seven pine trees due to the Pine Bark Beetle, one more than in the previous year. There were no pines removed due to the Pine Bark Beetle in 2024 or 2025.

Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual Update

In January 2025, the City Council approved an update to the Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual. Revisions focused on six goals and objectives. Over the past year, staff worked to implement the six goals and objectives included in the Manual update. Below are the goals and objectives, and progress in each goal area:

- Best Management Practices
 - Staff now inspects all nursery stock prior to planting.
 - Staff works with WCA on pruning expectations for mature trees.
 - Staff spot-checks trees following trimming to be sure trimming meets City standards.
- Tree Maintenance and Wildlife Protections
 - Goal is to complete tree trimming prior to nesting season.
 - If nesting activity is evident, tree trimming is suspended until no activity is present.
- Maintaining the Tree Canopy
 - Reforestation numbers are still slow to increase.
 - Staff will work on community outreach, including increased advertising and contact with residents with vacant planting locations.
 - Focus on “Right Tree, Right Place” planting.
- Removal Parameters
 - To date, no non-emergency tree removals have occurred.
- Infrastructure Conflict Resolutions
 - To date, no removals have met established criteria.
- Communication, Transparency, and Procedure
 - Non-emergency tree removals have been posted bi-monthly.

Looking Ahead

The 2024-26 budget includes funding for a five-year grid trimming cycle. A five-year cycle is more in line with industry standards, will lead to a healthier urban forest, and will reduce City liability. More frequent trimming helps trees adjust to urban conditions, supports healthy growth, reduces damage during storms, and reduces risk of failure and decay. The fourth year of the new five-year grid trimming cycle is complete, and the benefits of the more frequent trimming cycle can be seen throughout the City. There are lower frequencies of downed trees and branches, and fewer visibility/line-of-sight issues.

As a means to ensure high-quality new trees, City staff will continue to inspect all nursery stock prior to planting. WCA brings nursery stock to the City Yard for inspection, and any stock that is not in accordance with City standards is rejected. WCA will return with new stock as needed until all nursery stock meets City standards.

In January 2025, the City Council approved the updated *Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual*. Revisions included a new notification procedure for non-emergency removals. Per the revised Manual, all non-emergency removals will be posted on the City’s website for a 15-day public objection period. Postings occur on the 1st and 16th of each month, given there are recommended non-emergency removals. The new procedures include an automatic notification process, open to anyone that opts in by signing up via the City website or email. Anyone who has opted in receives by email a notice that information has been posted on the website.

In March 2026, the City Council approved the 2026-28 City Council Priorities and Objectives. One of the objectives in support of the priority to “Preserve Our Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resources” states:

Ensure that the City's Sustainable City Plan, Urban Forest Management Plan, General Plan, Municipal Code, Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual; internal policies/procedures; and staff/contractor qualifications and instructions are all consistent with best urban forest practices and with one another, and are effective in preserving and expanding our City's Urban Forest, both public and private.

To that end, staff will begin reviewing the aforementioned documents with an eye toward consistency. This review and analysis will begin in summer 2026.

Take-Aways

This year, the City is on track to reach average rain fall totals; however, we are seeing a slight increase in young trees suffering from a lack of water. To help prevent development of drought stress symptoms, WCA is now adding mulch around the base of all newly planted trees to help retain water. Staff will continue to work with property owners on the importance of tree watering and to educate the community on the many benefits trees provide.

Healthy, well-maintained trees are better equipped than stressed and declining trees to fight off disease and infections. In addition, a healthy, well-maintained urban forest leads to fewer liability claims for property damaged by downed trees and branches. It is imperative that the City maintain a healthy urban forest, and as the City moves forward with urban forest maintenance, staff strives to maintain a quality urban forest with a greater focus on responsible planting, proper young tree care, and sensible preservation of the aging forest.

CEQA REVIEW

This item is not subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCESS

The agenda and staff report for this item have been posted on the City website and distributed to interested parties. If you desire a copy, please contact the Community Services Department.

Submitted by:

Prepared by:

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Cari Dillman
Community Services Manager