

## Street Tree Planting (FY 15)

Tree planting seasons:	Fall 2014 and Spring 2015
Number of tree planting sites:	5,000 tree planting sites
Number of trees to be planted (est. all projects):	1,200 trees
Remaining tree planting sites after FY15 planting:	3,800 tree planting sites

The fall street tree planting season will begin in early November. Margolis Nurseries, the city's tree planting contractor, will plant approximately 500 trees this fall (see attached map for fall planting areas). Forestry staff will also plant approximately 75 trees, focusing on replacing trees that were planted over the last five years that have died.

In addition to the city's tree planting efforts, the DDA has hired Lodi Nursery to plant street trees in locations within the DDA area. Approximately 100 trees will be planted as part of this project. City staff have been assisting the DDA with this tree planting project.

### Funding Street Tree Planting:

- State Revolving Fund loan to plant 1,000 trees in FY 15 (Margolis Nurseries contract)
- Elizabeth Dean Fund and Stormwater Utility Funds to replace recently planted street trees (Forestry staff)

## Tree Removals, Stump Removals, and Priority Tree Pruning Backlog

The chart below provides details on the current tree removal and priority pruning backlog. Included in the chart is the work to be completed under two tree maintenance contracts that will be on the November 17, 2014 City Council agenda for approval. The work completed through the contracts with Guardian Tree Expert and Asplundh Tree Experts will initiate a multi-phased approach to address the backlog of tree maintenance activities as described in the Urban and Community Forest Management Plan.

At the end of this calendar year, city staff will evaluate the remaining backlog of Priority 1/2 Removals and Priority 1 Pruning looking at how many trees Forestry has addressed through the first half of the fiscal year and what the Guardian and Asplundh contracts will accomplish by the end of the fiscal year. These contracts are the first major push to address the backlog and staff will continue to address what remains of the backlog simultaneously with these contracts. Work to address what remains of the backlog will be done using a combination of city staff and contractors. It is anticipated that city staff will focus on stump removals, tree removals and limited trimming and contractors will be utilized for tree removals and the majority of the Priority 1 Pruning. The goal is to release a second tree work bid in mid to late January 2015.

Activity	Current Maintenance Backlog (Number of Trees)	Maintenance Backlog to be addressed with Guardian and Asplundh contracts (Number of Trees)	Backlog AFTER contracts (Number of Trees)
Tree Removals – Priority 1 and 2 Removals (Highest Priority Removals)	815	508	307*
Tree Removals- Priority 3 Removals***	904	0	904
Stump Removals- includes tree removals listed above	2,205	508	1,871
Tree Pruning- Priority 1 Pruning (Highest priority trees in need of immediate pruning)	1,000	168	832
Tree Pruning – Priority 2 Pruning (in need of immediate pruning)	2,271	0	2,271
*There is a 1.5% mortality rate of street trees each year. Trees will be continuously added to the removal list.			
***Of the trees on the Priority 3 Removal list, over 70% are trees less than 6" DBH			

**Funding Tree Removals and Priority Pruning Backlog:**

- \$1,000,000 allocation of general fund surplus approved City Council during the FY 15 budget process for tree maintenance activities.

**Street Tree Maintenance (Routine Pruning Cycle)**

Street trees are currently only pruned to address sight clearance issues, remedy immediate hazards and respond to storm damage; pruning is not performed on a routine or systematic basis. Routine tree pruning is an important component of a sustainable urban and community forestry program. Trees pruned on a routine basis develop proper form and structure leading to a variety of benefits, including:

- lower costs per tree trimming;
- early identification and correction of insect/disease problems leading to fewer tree mortalities;
- reduction in storm related tree damage;
- lower future maintenance costs;
- reduction in tree-related service requests and improved customer service;
- development of a healthy and sustainable urban and community forest.

Recommendation #1 of the Urban and Community Forest Management Plan is to implement a proactive tree maintenance program, which includes a routine pruning cycle. Staff recommends that the City implement a 7-year routine pruning cycle beginning in FY16. Below is a cost estimate, utilizing contractors to perform the routine tree pruning.

TOTAL Number of Street Trees requiring routine pruning	Number of Street Trees pruned each year	Estimated cost per tree	Cost Per Year	Year first cycle will be completed if begun in FY16
46,000	6,572	\$65	\$427,180	2023

**Funding Routine Pruning Cycle:**

- Not currently funded in FY 15.