



**TREE CITY USA.**



**CITY OF EL CAJON  
URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM**

**Urban Forestry**

The City's Park Division oversees the planting and maintenance of trees in City parks, public grounds, median islands and in parkways (area between the curb and sidewalk) along City streets. Current tree maintenance inventory includes over 7,000 various trees. The National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the City of El Cajon as Tree City USA. We urge all residents to support efforts to protect our trees and support the City's Urban Forestry Program. The City of El Cajon Parks Division will oversee the planting and maintenance of parkway trees (free of charge) for property owners, providing the parkway can accommodate trees and the property owners sign a Parkway Tree Planting Agreement. Residents may also have a memorial tree planted in remembrance of a loved one. For the price of a 24-inch box tree, the Parks Division will plant a tree in the park of your choice, providing planting locations are available.

**Planting**

Upon receipt of a signed Parkway Tree Planting Agreement, City staff will inspect the planting site and determine the suitability for planting. A follow-up letter from staff will indicate the findings of the site inspection. If the planting site is suitable, a permissible tree list will be included for the property owner(s) to select the desired tree(s) for planting. Parkway trees may be planted at 20–30 foot spacing. Trees may not be planted within 10 feet of a fire hydrant, 15-feet from utility structures, 5-feet from underground utilities, 8-feet from sewer lines, 20-feet from intersections, 30-feet from street signs, and 8-feet from driveways.

## **Tree Selection**

The City of El Cajon's Permissible Parkway Tree List provides tree selections that are compatible with the planting location thus preventing damage to public and private improvements, while ensuring species diversity.

## **Maintenance**

Although property owners are responsible for watering parkway trees, the City provides all the pruning care. The City's Urban Parks Division prunes parkway trees to improve structure and vigor of the trees. Parkway trees are also pruned to ensure proper vertical clearance for vehicular (13.5-feet), pedestrian (7-feet) traffic, and to remove visibility obstructions for motor vehicles. Typically Parkway trees are only removed when they are dead, diseased or dying. Likewise, a parkway tree will be considered for removal when it presents an immediate concern for public safety. Occasionally, parkway trees may be removed when planted too close to an existing sewer lateral and there is documented evidence provided by the property owner confirming the tree is causing a sewer obstruction.

## **Responsibilities of Property Owners**

Property owners are responsible to maintain all trees behind the sidewalk or along the roadway in unimproved areas (no sidewalk). Additionally, property owners are responsible for watering their parkway trees. Newly planted trees need regular watering. More frequent watering is necessary when it is hot; and less watering, when it is cool or it rains. Since soil and environmental conditions vary, periodically check the soil to see that is not too wet or too dry. Furthermore, property owners should refrain from activities, which may damage parkway trees and, under no circumstance should a property owner trim or remove a parkway tree. Additionally, if you observe sidewalk offsets or curb damage, as a result of tree root activity, please contact the Department of Public Works at (619) 441-1653.

For further information concerning the Community's Urban Forest, including plantings of parkway and memorial trees, please contact the El Cajon Parks Division at (619) 441-1744.