

## CITY OF CLAREMONT TREE POLICIES & GUIDELINES MANUAL REVIEW

The following is a DRAFT summary of revision recommendations for the City of Claremont’s Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual (Manual). Recommendations consider industry standards, International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) best management practices (BMPs), and consideration of community values. This is a DRAFT of recommendations discussed with the City and the community, provided in an effort to increase transparency and clarity for the various potential revisions and their context.

### 1. Manual Revision – From Review

The following items for revision were identified by the consultant’s initial review of the Manual. Recommendations for revision are provided below.

Revision Item	Revision Recommendation	Details of Revision
Specifying standards to industry/ISA BMPs	Specify standards within Manual	Include specifics of which standards are to be followed. To include: International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), American Horticulture
Expand maintenance practices	Nursery stock, nursery stock inspection	Detail standards to match current BMPs
	Upon planting, consider feasible tree infrastructure conflict resolutions.	Some resolution measures can only be installed upon planting. Considering feasible resolutions upon installation, minimize future tree and infrastructure conflicts through planning efforts.
	Remove root barriers as a practice	Not a BMP
	Establishment care	Stake removal, watering schedule, watering for high heat and drought, young tree structural pruning, 3 years of establishment care watering is BMP
	Mature tree pruning	Update foliage % allowed for removal to BMPs
	Removal	Ensure consideration for all mitigation measures prior to tree removal
Sustainability Considerations	Specify guidelines for “drought tolerant species”	Utilize WULCOS and most recent research
	Prioritize shade potential when selecting tree species	Currently aesthetic value is considered as a primary consideration
	Species metrics for sustainable urban forest (10% of any species, 20% of any genus, and 30% of any family)	Current research states 5% for any species is a stronger resiliency metric
	Consider increasing species diversity in historic groves	Vulnerable to pest or pathogen targeting specific species
	Tree maintenance debris and urban wood	Utilize debris to highest next value and utilize tree debris as a bioresource
Protection Mature Trees	Add Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) parameters to retain trees during construction	ISA BMP for construction

	Clarify consideration of all infrastructure mitigation procedures	Ensure process is transparent to community
	Develop a systematic and methodological procedure for assessing trees	Tree risk: current state for designated time frame  Tree health: potential for tree to recover after infrastructure mitigation methods /root pruning
Specify Decision Makers	Ensure all decision makers for trees have the proper certifications	ISA Certified Arborist for health related decisions and an ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified Arborist (TRAQ) for risk related assessments.
Clarify BMPs for Adjacent Property Owner	Increase standard of care to BMPs	3 years establishment care watering to be added to community education

## 2. Addressed Through Community Engagement

The following are items from community engagement efforts which are in the process of being addressed through this project.

Revision Item	Revision Recommendation	Details of Revision
Who manages the urban forest?	Clarify what credentials qualify a person to manage the urban forest	Tree Health: ISA Certified Arborist (Municipal Specialist)  Tree Risk: ISA TRAQ
Concerns for wildlife and nesting season	Elevate contract with tree maintenance provider to require a biologist survey pre-pruning for each tree, report avian activity monthly	City targets October - March/April to schedule all grid pruning each year. If funding remains, April - June schedules tree pruning to get ahead of schedule and responsibly utilize public funds.
		Ensure in-house and contractors follow Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife BMP
Assessing potential tree risk	Specify who is qualified to assess tree risk for a Tree Risk Assessment Program	Assessing Potential Tree Risk - ISA Certified Arborist - Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)
	Tree Risk Assessment Program	Systematic procedure for risk assessment and risk mitigation methods.
		Proactive management practice to mitigate risk while trees are standing.
Increase in transparency	Hazardous, Dead, Emergency, or Public Safety tree removal transparency procedure*	TRAQ program (above) to assess hazardous trees for mitigation methods prior to emergencies
		Opportunity for public comment. 15 days OR scheduled Tree Committee meeting
	Diseased, Dying, and "Other" Removals tree removal transparency procedure**	If protested, third party qualified assessor provides recommendation

### 3. Proposed Process for Tree Removals (DRAFT)

The following are proposed processes to increase transparency when the City performs tree removals. Proposed processes provide transparency of assessment processes and due diligence of a systematic assessment system for each tree. The proposed timeline gives community members an opportunity to protest removals and allow a process for a third party assessment.

#### \* Hazardous, Dead, Emergency, or Public Safety transparency

- 1** City may remove tree without notice.
- 2** City submits list of performed removals and tree planting monthly to Community & Human Services Commission.
- 3** In submittal, provide removal and planting information, documented systematic process that was followed, and tree debris management decisions.

#### \*\* Proposed – Diseased, Dying, and “Other” Removals

Clarify: Preservation is always the goal when assessing a tree for potential removal.

- 1** City to perform systematic tree health/arboriculture assessment prior to being placed on removal list. (In-house)
- 2** Post list of proposed removals with either 15 days to respond or a scheduled Tree Committee meeting. Include assessment documentation.
- 3** Identify trees being protested.
- 4a** Arborist report. (Third Party\*- additional cost)
- 4b** IF pest or pathogen related, lab work. (Outside service - additional cost)
- 5** Removal or mitigation recommendation made by outside service (See step 4)
- 6** Updates to protested tree removals posted with additional assessment paperwork/photos.

## 4. Unfeasible Tree and Infrastructure Conflict Resolutions

The Community Services Department and project consultants met with the Community Development Department to discuss the potential tree and infrastructure conflict resolutions that may be considered for the City. The following is a list of items that were deemed NOT feasible. Feasible options were presented during a community meeting on 12/4/23. Feasible options to be implemented upon tree planting will be captured in the draft revision of the Manual under considerations when planting new trees.

Resolution Method	Limitation
Rubberized Pavers	Increase in maintenance to straighten upon lifting. Roots are not redirected allowing for increase in future conflict
Pavers	Water on surface Potential tripping hazard in public areas
Monolithic sidewalk	Greatly increases maintenance cost. Does not meet City standards
Curb realignment	Non-standard feature with liabilities such as removing bike lanes. Potential to implement as part of designing a roadway
Curving or offset sidewalk	Concern for blind residents
Root barriers	Not BMP from arboriculture perspective Does not develop proper root structure for tree