
El Segundo Library Park – Canary Island Pine Tree Replacement

From: Nadine Currimjee Quane <nadine.currimjee@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 1:39 PM
To: Mancini, Aly <amancini@elsegundo.org>
Cc: Barbara Boland <barbara.boland@mac.com>
Subject: El Segundo Library Park - Canary Island Pine Tree Replacement

Dear Mrs Mancini,

I am an admin for the *El Segundo Native Plant Society* and am writing to you with regards the replacement options you may be considering following the removal of the Canary Island Pine Tree in El Segundo Library Park. I would like to support the option of a **California/Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)** which was proposed at the Parks and Rec meeting held towards the end of March by Master Gardener Barbara Boland, an admin of for the *El Segundo Blue Butterfly Conservancy*, a group currently involved in the native plant restoration efforts on the W Imperial Avenue hillside bank along Memory Tree Row.

With regard to their aesthetic and community benefits, Coast Live Oaks are known for their beauty, with their distinctive shape, evergreen dark green foliage, and long lifespan, with some individuals living for centuries. Mature Coast Live Oaks provide shade, helping to cool the park and surrounding areas during hot summer months. Coast Live Oaks can also serve as a valuable educational tool, teaching residents about the importance of native plants and ecosystems. With regard to their ecological benefits, Coast Live Oaks are native to California and thrive in the region's climate, requiring minimal supplemental watering once established. These trees are keystone species in California's coastal ecosystems, playing a crucial role in supporting a diverse range of wildlife and contributing to the overall health of the environment.

In the context of Library Park, a young Coast Live Oak can grow quite rapidly, with some reaching 2 feet per year although growth will eventually slow with age. It takes 75-100 years for a Live Oak to reach its full mature size of 40-80 feet and trunk diameters of at least 6 feet.

I am including below a few supporting links:

Calscape:

[https://calscape.org/Quercus-agrifolia-\(Coast-Live-Oak\)](https://calscape.org/Quercus-agrifolia-(Coast-Live-Oak))

Doug Tallamy: The Nature of Oaks (recorded YouTube talk tailored for a California audience)

Duration: about 90 mins (but even the first 10 minutes are very informative)

Doug Tallamy is an American entomologist, ecologist and conservationist. He is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, and advocates for home gardens and landscaping that bridge the gaps between parks and preserves in providing habitat for native species. He has highlighted the connections between plants and insects and how those relations are important to bird populations. He is also a huge proponent of native oaks, "our most essential native trees".

<https://youtu.be/M54o9052btE?feature=shared>

A bit more about Doug Tallamy's work:

<https://www.udel.edu/faculty-staff/media-experts/spotlight/?postid=10333>

Alongside the replacement tree for Library Park, I believe a native tree option such the Coast Live Oak which has low water needs and high biodiversity impact would also make for a marvellous addition to the list of tree options for Memory Tree Row.

Thank-you for taking the time to consider my request.

Yours Sincerely,
Nadine Currimjee-Quane