



TITLE:

Tree Removal Request at 429 Richmond

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve tree removal request at 429 Richmond.
2. Alternatively, discuss and take other action related to this item.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approximately \$2,000, there are budgeted funds to cover this expense.

BACKGROUND:

Property owner at the Bridge South Bay Foursquare Church has requested removal of the City tree located in the front of the church due to damage to the church patio and leaning light pole.

DISCUSSION:

The city tree is a large mature Camphor tree that has caused damage to the church patio along with City sidewalk and curb. In November 2024, staff replaced the sidewalk and curb. To accomplish this, tree roots were trimmed and cut along the back of sidewalk to maintain proper grades for the new walkway. These mitigation efforts will only be temporary with impact returning in the future. In addition, the tree roots have caused a nearby street light pole to lean.

According to the City's Street Tree Policy (Attached), this tree would be eligible for removal under the following:

VIII. REMOVAL

1. When a request is made for removal of a parkway tree, consideration will be given to the aesthetic value of the tree to the neighborhood. If the tree is determined to be desirable, all other alternatives to removal will be employed, such as pruning and/or root pruning.

Tree Removal Request at 429 Richmond
June 18, 2025

Page 2 of 2

2. Trees that will be considered for removal include the following:
 - a. Trees that are dead, diseased, hazardous, conflict with adjacent buildings, trees causing sewer line or other property damage.

Letters have been sent out to adjacent neighbors regarding this tree removal request. No feedback has been received to date

CITY STRATEGIC PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Goal 1: Develop and maintain quality infrastructure and technology

PREPARED BY: Christopher Hentzen, Park Maintenance Superintendent

REVIEWED BY: Viviann Gonzalez, Senior Administrative Specialist

APPROVED BY: Aly Mancini, Director of Recreation, Parks, and Library

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Tree photos and Street Tree Policy





CITY OF EL SEGUNDO
RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT
STREET TREE POLICIES

I. UNDESIRABLE STREET TREES

The following is a list of trees that have been planted in parkways throughout the City of El Segundo over many years, which have proven to be undesirable for planting in narrow areas. These trees have caused severe damage to sidewalks, curbs, driveways and sewer lines.

The trees that have been declared undesirable include:

- 1. ALL FICUS TREES**
- 2. ALL LIQUIDAMBAR TREES**
- 3. ALL MAGNOLIA TREES**
- 4. ALL CAROB TREES**
- 5. ALL OLIVE TREES**

II. RECOMMENDED STREET TREES FOR PLANTING IN EL SEGUNDO

*See City of El Segundo Street Tree Master Plan

These street trees were chosen because they possess the following characteristics:

1. Can grow in a confined area without causing damage to sidewalks and driveways.
2. Pest and disease tolerant.
3. Low maintenance with regard to pruning.
4. Tolerant of El Segundo's climatic zone.
5. Aesthetic value.

III. REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF STREET TREES

As a street tree is removed, a replacement tree must be planted in the same general location, unless conditions exist that would be detrimental to the tree's health. In this case, the Park Superintendent will decide on an appropriate location for the replacement tree within the parkway and adjacent to the property where the tree was removed.

APPEALS – Appeals of the decisions of the Director of Recreation and Parks and interpretations of the Tree Policy may be brought before the Recreation and Parks Commission for consideration, whose decisions regarding interpretations and requirements of the Tree Policy shall be final. (Ord. 1158)

IV. PROPERTY OWNERS REQUEST TO UPGRADE SIZE OF TREE NORMALLY PLANTED BY THE CITY.

The City normally plants a 24" box size tree. A property owner, at their request, can pay for a larger tree from the recommended street tree list. The property owner will pay the City of El Segundo the difference between the recommended 24" box size street tree and a larger size tree.

The City has the responsibility of pruning and trimming it. The property owner is responsible for watering the tree.

V. CHOICE OF TREE TO BE PLANTED

The property owner, if they desire, will be given a choice of trees that are approved for planting on their street, in accordance with the list of recommended street trees.

VI. PLANTING

1. Selection of type of tree as per recommended street tree list.
2. Street trees that are planted in parkways are planted and paid for by the City of El Segundo. The City assumes responsibility for the proper trimming and maintenance of all parkway trees. The property owners are responsible for watering trees planted in the City parkways adjacent to their property.
3. All trees planted in the City parkways will be a minimum 24" box.

VII. PRUNING

1. Emergency pruning (tree down, broken limbs, property damage, etc.) will have priority over all other pruning calls and will be taken care of as soon as possible.
2. Regular pruning and shaping will be scheduled for City street trees by the Park Superintendent.
3. Wherever possible, mature trees shall be trimmed to 13 feet 6 inches above the street and at least 10 feet 6 inches above the sidewalk.
4. Pruning shall include the removal of roots, not to exceed 25% of the total root mass, to correct damage to curbs, gutters, sidewalks and driveways.
5. Pruning requests for City street trees may be made by calling the Parks Division at (310) 524-2716.
6. The Parks Division is opposed to "topping", the practice of cutting back large diameter branches of a mature tree to stubs. It is stressful to mature trees, and may result in reduced vigor, decline, or even death of the tree. In addition, new branches that form below the cuts are weakly attached to the tree and are in danger of splitting out. Topped trees require constant maintenance to prevent this from happening and it is often impossible to restore the structure of the tree crown after topping.

VIII. REMOVAL

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2. Trees that will be considered for removal include the following:
 - a. Trees that are dead, diseased, hazardous, conflict with adjacent buildings, trees causing sewer line or other property damage.
 - b. Trees that hinder a new development or construction project. (Developers must request a tree be removed by filing a "Request for Tree Removal" at the City Planning/Building Safety Department.)

3. The Parks Division has responsibility for removing trees.
4. Removal requests may be made by calling the Parks Division at (310) 524-2716.