



WORKING for
YOU

— PARKS —
City Trees

Ventura's Urban Forest

Ventura's Parks Division is responsible for approximately 35,000 City trees. These, along with trees on private property and trees in the city's barrancas make up the rich and varied mosaic that is Ventura's urban forest.

How do trees benefit us?

Trees improve our quality of life in several important ways. Trees produce oxygen which helps replace the oxygen we and our vehicles consume. Trees cool our streets, lowering temperatures in the shade about 10 degrees. Streetside trees also help clean our air and provide sound dampening and wind buffers. Aesthetically, street trees unify a streetscape and provide visual interest to pedestrians and motorists. Trees also provide habitat for a variety of animals.

Tree Maintenance Policies

An urban forest is the public property of all residents, and is managed as a public resource. The Parks Division regulates all planting, pruning and removal of trees in the public easement. This includes parkways—the space between the sidewalk and the curb—where most trees are located. In some neighborhoods, the sidewalk is adjacent to the curb, and the easement is situated in the area between the house and the sidewalk. Residents must obtain a permit to plant, prune or remove a tree located in a parkway or easement. There is no charge for this permit.

Ventura's urban forest is divided into 25 tree maintenance zones. Trees are pruned year round on a zone-by-zone basis. When tree emergencies occur, tree crew personnel respond as quickly as possible. The Parks Division operates a Tree Hotline at 667-6519. Calls are answered within 24 hours.

Tree Replacement— The right tree in the right place

Some tree species such as Ficus and Olive create problems that are unacceptable to many residents. These species are being evaluated for replacement on a street-by-street basis. As these trees are removed, new species will be planted that are more compatible with the streetscape. Trees will be located to avoid underground and overhead utility lines. Each street will continue to have an approved tree species, and trees will be varied across the City to help reduce the severity of disease outbreaks.



"We're Making Ventura a Better Place"