

PARKWAY TREES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why doesn't the City top the trees so they will remain small?

The topping of trees is strongly discouraged due to negative effects resulting from this practice. Trees that are topped actually need to be trimmed more frequently and topping forces the aggressive growth of 'suckers' that originate from the point of each cut. This growth quickly fills the crown of the tree which causes: increased pruning frequency resulting in higher maintenance costs; the formation of a dense crown, which makes the tree prone to blowing over in heavy winds; and trees which develop weak and dangerous branch attachments prone to breakage.

Q: Can I trim the parkway tree in front of my home?

No. Trees located in the parkway are the property of the City. Trees are trimmed by district in accordance to ISA standards; and are typically on a 3-5 year trim cycle, with the exception of palm trees, which are trimmed on an annual basis. Residents who have questions about parkway tree trimming may contact the Maintenance Services Division at (714) 754-5123.

Q: Can I plant my own street tree?

No. Residents that are interested in having a tree planted in the parkway may contact the Maintenance Services Division at (714) 754-5123. The City Arborist will inspect the parkway for optimum growth and coordinate the selection of specie and planting with the resident.

Q: I've had problems with roots breaking up my sidewalk in the past. Why plant again?

The benefits of planting a parkway tree consist of providing canopy coverage for the City, decrease in surface heats, provide oxygen to the environment, prevents rain water run-off and erosion, and provides aesthetic value to the City. Newer species and varieties are available that have growth rates from slow to moderate and less root intrusion. Planning and planting the right tree is now dependent of the parkway size, soil and neighborhood conditions.

Q: Who maintains and prunes the trees, other than making sure they are watered?

The Maintenance Services Division is responsible for maintenance of public property trees. When new trees are planted in City parkways, resident are encouraged to water the trees to aid in their establishment.

Q: What if I want a tree removed or replaced?

The Parks and Community Services Commission has established guidelines to prevent the removal of trees simply for the sake of removing them. Trees must be dangerous or diseased without remedy or be contributing to a hazardous condition. For criteria for parkway tree removal and/or replacement, please refer to [Section 4.0](#) of the Streetscape and Median Development Standards.

Q: What happens if tree roots damage my sewer line or water line?

Please refer to a separate [FAQ sheet for tree roots in sewer lines](#).

Q: Whom do I call for tree related problems or concerns?

Residents are welcome to contact the Maintenance Services Division at (714) 754-5123 for any questions or concerns.

Q: Who clears branches from around power lines or utility lines adjacent to my home?

Local utility companies are responsible for maintaining clearance around electrical, telephone and cable lines. Please contact your local service provider for assistance.