



# Urban Forest Management Program Update

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Facilities, Parks and Trails Manager

DIRECTION REQUESTED

# The Ask:

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The City Council receive an update on the Urban Forest Management Program and provide direction on the FY25 program budget.



# Program Background

## 01 Beginnings

Established in 2021

## 02 Benefits

Ensures the City has a comprehensive plan to maintain a healthy and growing Urban Forest

## 03 Goals

Plant 15,000 trees over a 5-year period (3,000 trees per year) and implement a 5-year grid pruning cycle

## 04 Annual Investment

The City currently invests \$1.6M annually to maintain its Urban Forest



# Program Highlights

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## **01** Tree City USA

The City of Corona is proud to be recognized as a Tree City USA. This prestigious designation is awarded to agencies that demonstrate a commitment to caring for its trees and forest.

## **02** Helen Putnam Award for Urban Forest Management

The City was honored to receive a Helen Putnam Award from the League of California Cities and be recognized for its investment and dedication to the Urban Forest.

## **03** USDA Urban and Community Forestry Grant

The City received a \$100,000 grant to plant additional trees in underserved areas that were also included in high heat indexes. This will benefit several residents that live in and around the Circle.

## **04** Volunteer Engagement

The City created an active and robust Corona Beautiful Program that includes several volunteer tree planting opportunities. These events are highly attended and bring the community together to improve our open space.

WORK ACCOMPLISHED

# Year 1 Overview

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Trees Trimmed

**16,749**



Trees Planted

**3,040**



Trees Removed

**692**



Volunteers

**590**

375 trees planted

WORK ACCOMPLISHED

# Year 2 Overview (YTD)



Trees Trimmed

11,683



Trees Planted

1,834



Trees Removed

429



Volunteers

348

175 trees planted

The Need

## FY25 Budget

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- Additional funding is needed to maintain current pruning schedules, reforestation efforts, and service requests.
- This need is due to the next grid encompassing a larger portion of the Urban Forest in the General Fund areas.
- As the grids move through the 5-year cycle, the financial impacts will shift between the General Fund, LMD's, and CFD's.



## The Challenge

# Service Requests

Resident requests to trim trees outside the 5-year grid pruning cycle

## City expenditures for Service Requests:

- FY23 = \$400,133
- FY24 (YTD) = \$628,526

## For Consideration

# Residential Pay Program

Allows residents to pay out of pocket for service requests to trim shared responsibility trees prior to the next scheduled trim

## Implemented in the following nearby cities:

- City of Chino Hills
- City of Riverside
- City of Redlands

## Service request rates:

- Service Request Clearance Prune: \$94.00
- Service Request Aesthetic Prune: \$239.00
- Service Request Park/Slope Aerial: \$239.00
- Service Requests Slope Climb: \$359.00



PROPOSED WORK

# FY25 Options

## OPTION A

**No New Financial Impact**

**Total FY25 budget = \$1,600,000**

- ✓ Maintain 5-year pruning cycle
- ✓ **Push planting out to 7 years**  
(Reduce from 3,000 to 1,800 tree plantings per year)
- ✓ Maintain City-funded service requests

**SLOWS GROWTH**

## OPTION B

**\$400,000 Financial Impact**

**Total FY25 budget = \$2,413,000**  
(offset by \$400,000 in revenue)

- ✓ Maintain 5-year pruning cycle
- ✓ Maintain 5-year planting schedule
- ✓ **Implement Residential Pay Program for Service Requests**

**STABILIZES BUDGET**

## OPTION C

**\$813,000 Financial Impact**

**Total FY25 budget = \$2,413,000**

- ✓ Maintain 5-year pruning cycle
- ✓ Maintain 5-year planting schedule
- ✓ Maintain City-funded service requests

**MAINTAINS PLAN**

**Staff Recommendation**

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**Thank You**

