



# **City of Manteca**

# **Street Tree Plan**

**Implementation Plan of Manteca Municipal Code 12.08**  
**"Trees and Shrub"**

## City of Manteca Street Tree Plan

In order to identify the different activities that are necessary to carry out the functions of the City's Tree Program, a Street Tree Plan is required (MMC 12.08.202). It is the intent of this document to establish a more detailed plan than previously existed. The City will have the final determination on resolving tree issues covered or not covered in the document.

The purpose of having a tree program is to insure that our community will continue to realize and appreciate the benefits from trees through proper management of the City's urban forest. It will be the goal of the Street Tree Plan to state what is necessary for the management of our urban forest and describe the measures required to fulfill the responsibilities of the City.

The urban forest in Manteca is dynamic. An effective tree maintenance program involves a long-term commitment to provide health trees and a safer environment for the public. Past maintenance has been provided based on citizen requests and emergency situations, crisis management. This requires an investment of substantial manpower and equipment to keep up with the imperative maintenance needs, trees posing a real or potential public safety hazard. A large number of imperative maintenance needs exist at the present time and the means to provide crisis management are not available. The alternatives for future maintenance activities are to continue with the present system or to begin a systematic and consistent maintenance program (trim cycle).

Cultural attitudes can be observed by how people treat their environment. People destroy, preserve, revere and neglect trees. All these actions can be read in the landscape and indicate the varied attitudes toward its environment and specifically toward its trees. If the care and preservation of its trees is placed low on the list of priorities, future generations will inherit a legacy of neglected, abused and dead trees. Cultural ambivalence or apathy can have the same results. Only an aggressive consistent, pro-tree policy can be effective for both today and the future. The excuse - lack of funds - means lack of commitment. It is a question of attitude, not resources.

With a positive commitment, the City of Manteca has adopted in the TREES AND SHRUBS ORDINANCE (MMC 12.08) the basic attitude that the City's trees warrant protection. The continuing commitment Arbor Day and Earth Day objectives strengthen this commitment.

Trees are beneficial and desirable for their beauty, unifying influence; production of oxygen and cooling shade and every attempt must be made to manage the tree system. Trees are an asset to the community and investments in tree planting and maintenance involves an investment in the community which increases in value.

## VALUE STATEMENT REGARDING TREES:

Trees have functional value to the community such as, carbon dioxide exchange and release of oxygen, heat reduction in neighborhoods, noise absorption (auto, industry, etc.), filtering of pollutants and dust, and beautification of the community.

Trees also have economic value to the community such as, lowering of neighborhood summer temperatures thereby reducing electrical energy demand for their conditioning, wind screen effect that reduces wind chill factor to reduce winter heating costs, definite increase in property values of individual as well as neighborhood properties, and contribution to the economy through enhancing the quality of life and community beautification.

The following policies are established to guide the planning, planting, maintenance, removal, relocation and preservation of Manteca's street trees. They are designed to establish the maximum program of care for the street tree system:

### TREE PLANTING:

**GENERAL:** The Department of Parks and Recreation shall be responsible for determining the appropriate species or variety of trees planted within the public street rights of way or easements.

### SPECIFIC PLANTING POLICIES:

1. Street trees shall be planted in conformance with the master plan and in accordance with City Standard Specifications and Director approval. The master plan will be based upon a "block variety" designation which provides visual continuity and facilitates maintenance.

All residential lots shall have one street tree per frontage, unless the frontage exceeds 80', then the addition of street trees may be required by the Director. In conjunction with the new subdivision plantings, a tree replacement program will be administered by the City to eliminate "gaps" in existing street tree plantings throughout the City.

The City of Manteca reserves the right to plant a tree/trees where it deems feasible with or without approvals from residential, commercial or business areas. The City reserves the right to make the tree/trees selection when a question arises as to what species of tree is to be planted without approvals from property owner.

Multifamily, commercial, industrial and arterial street backup lots shall be required to have street trees at 28' to 40' on center and shall be indicated on required development and/or site plans.

Street trees located at multi-family, commercial, and industrial locations shall be watered by automatic irrigation systems installed by the developer of on-site landscaping.

2. Planting of street trees at single family homes shall not occur until the home is occupied.
3. Where an existing tree must be removed to accommodate development, a replacement tree of as near the same size as removed tree shall be planted at the developers expense.
4. All trees in tree wells shall be installed with an automatic irrigation system and root control box in conformance with the City Standard Plans and Specifications.
5. The developer of the property shall be responsible for the installation of street trees required, at his expense, to the satisfaction of the Director.
6. In the interest of public safety and for convenience of maintenance, trees shall be planted at the following minimum distances from other facilities:
  - a. 35' from the beginning of curb returns at intersections.
  - b. 20' from electroliers or traffic signal standards.
  - c. 8' from fire hydrants, water and sewer service lines.
  - d. 10' from driveway approaches.
  - e. 3' from back of sidewalk.

#### TREE VARIETY SELECTION:

How an urban forest prospers, and the impact it has on a community, depends on the types and location of the trees planted. Over the years a variety of trees have been planted in Manteca. Many of the trees have done as well as can be expected in an urban setting. Certain trees have undesirable traits in an urban setting, which can overshadow their benefits. While each tree has limitations and there is no completely ideal tree, certain characteristics are important in the selection of trees. Trees with the following characteristics are preferred:

1. Trees that are adapted to this area.
2. Trees that have a longer life span than 30 years.
3. Trees that do not have a history of brittleness or anchorage problems.
4. Trees that are not known to have serious pest, disease or fruiting problems.
5. Trees that will not require a high level of maintenance.
6. Trees that have an attractive appearance, especially with some fall color.
7. Trees with root systems that are not overly aggressive.

## MAINTENANCE:

### GENERAL:

The objectives of maintaining city street trees are:

1. To keep trees in a safe condition.
2. To care for the horticulture needs of the tree.
3. To preserve the trees so that the maximum benefit can be realized during their life cycle.

The City Trees and Shrubs Code specifies maintenance responsibilities as follows: Trees on City property and rights of way are the responsibility of the City to maintain a (MMC 12.08.060 and 12.08.110). Trees on private property and the private property portion of the "street tree area" are the responsibility of the private property owner to maintain.

1. Definition of "on property": Trees along the street that have at least the center line of the tree trunk diameter, at ground level, within the City right of way, or tree easements are considered to be a City responsibility. All other trees are considered to be private trees.
2. The Manteca Parks and Recreation Department will provide all necessary care of city street trees, horticulturally and safety wise, except that the adjacent property owner or tenant will be responsible for watering and fertilizing the city street tree. This will include preventive maintenance pruning by scheduled individual safety pruning based upon need, mistletoe removal (scheduled), tree removal (if necessary), root pruning, low pruning of limbs overhanging streets, sign clearance, and immediate safety hazards that are identified.

These services will be provided to the extent possible within budget appropriations with priority to safety issues.

3. Specific care Criteria:
  - a. Initial priorities will be to respond to immediate safety situations involving city street trees. If an immediate safety situation exists, that affects public property or public health, involving a private tree; the property owner will be advised to correct the situation immediately. If the property owner is not available, the city tree crew will correct the safety situation on the same day as reported.
  - b. Root pruning is scheduled as needed by individual situation. Root pruning and installation of root control boxes and fabric are prescheduled with the Streets Division in coordination with their sidewalk repair program.
  - c. Mistletoe removal will be performed when each tree is general pruning on the scheduled area cycle.

- d. General preventive pruning will be scheduled area by area based upon relative need and resources available.
- e. Specific time frames for response shall be developed by the Parks and Recreation Department to provide for low pruning, sign and safety clearance, and other emergency situations.
- f. Trees can cause visibility conflicts with business signs. It is our practice not to prune trees for better visibility of signs. Some pruning may be done when maintenance is required on the tree. However, special arrangements are not made to alter the normal growth habits of a tree.
- g. Damage to trees: At times trees are damaged intentionally or unintentionally by people. When the City becomes aware of these situations, an evaluation is made and a billing for damages is prepared if the responsible party can be located. Should damage be intentional, police action may be necessary.

Damaged trees are evaluated under procedures established by the International Society of Arboricultural and other professional organizations. The most common cause of tree damages is from vehicle accidents. Cars occasionally strike trees and other public property. City trees are considered to have a value and an accurate assessment of tree value and/or damages to the trees can be determined.

- h. Insect and Disease Control: The City will be responsible for prevention and correction of insect and disease problems on City street trees. The City will be instituting an Integrated Pest Management Approach to insects and diseases. This approach minimizes but does not eliminate the use of pesticides. Other options, such as non-toxic materials, natural and physical methods of control are considered before the use of chemicals.

Private trees with severe and contagious insect and disease problems shall be abated by the property owner. The Director may institute action to require private property owners to correct these problems when the severity dictates, under the authority of Manteca Municipal Code 12.08

## TREE REMOVAL

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the maintenance of the street tree system. It is the policy of the City of Manteca to preserve all city maintained trees when and wherever possible. Every reasonable attempt will be made to preserve such trees through normal maintenance practices and/or corrective measures.

It is recognized that individual trees that are deemed hazardous or undesirable can and do affect the environment of the total community and should be removed. Others are removed as part of the tree management system. Removal of a significant stand of trees

(4 or more) or the removal of single trees of significant historical importance shall require the review and approval of the Director.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Hazardous:** Dead, dying or structurally weak; traffic sight distance obstruction; or injurious to the health, safety or welfare of the general public.

**Undesirable:** Tree that possesses undesirable characteristics significant enough to have caused their elimination from the future planting as street trees. Typically, these trees cause chronic damage to curbs, gutters, sidewalks or other structures and which are an extreme nuisance.

In lieu of removal, consideration will be given to retaining trees through the use of the following methods:

1. Relocating sidewalks and/or utilities.
2. Root and canopy pruning of trees.
3. Root control boxes or fabric.

Trees that are removed will be replaced in accordance with planting criteria in the Street Tree Plan and City Standards.

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