



Date: January 15, 2019
To: Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Patrick West, City Manager *T.W.*
Subject: **New Fruit Trees Program**

The Office of Sustainability partnered with the Housing and Neighborhood Services Bureau in 2018 to apply for a CalFIRE grant to support tree planting programs. The grant was awarded to the project and the Office of Sustainability will begin planting fruit trees in front yards to fulfill its obligations under the grant. This program will be ongoing for the duration of the grant, which will expire in June 2021.

Fruit Trees Program

Fruit trees will be planted in Long Beach residents' front yards upon request with prioritization for neighborhoods with high CalEnviroScreen scores. CalEnviroScreen uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce scores for every census tract in the state. The scores are mapped so that different communities can be compared. An area with a high score is one that experiences a much higher pollution burden than areas with low scores.

All Long Beach residents with a suitable space in their front yard are encouraged to apply to the program online. Residents not located in a priority neighborhood will be placed on a wait list. Wait list requests will be fulfilled as space is available in the planting schedule each month. One fruit tree will be provided for each eligible property. Residents can select between peach, lemon, lime, orange, pomegranate, and avocado trees. Applications are available online at <http://www.longbeach.gov/sustainability/programs/tree-planting/> or call 562-570-5831 to request an alternate format.

Potential Benefits

Fruit trees provide carbon sequestration and air pollution benefits like all trees, with additional co-benefits. Trees planted near homes will provide shading benefits reducing the urban heat island effect and reducing cooling costs.

Fruit trees also provide a source of fresh produce, which many priority neighborhoods lack easy access to. Free fruit trees will also provide residents with an introduction to tree care and the benefits of trees for their neighborhood. This program has the potential to generate greater awareness of, and community support for, the growth of the urban forest in Long Beach.

If you would like any further information, please contact Larry Rich, Sustainability Coordinator, at (562) 570-5839 or via email at larry.rich@longbeach.gov.

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