

**Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine  
Tree Trimming/Removal Update  
Fact Sheet**

- In 2015, an inventory and assessment of 32,000 park trees was conducted that identified 14,000 trees as dead, dying, or in critical condition. Most park trees were planted over half a century ago and are reaching the end of their lifespan, not capable of resisting environmental factors causing their decline. These trees have continued to decline further due to a historic drought, disease, and invasive pests.
- FY 23 budget included one-time Measure A funds in the amount of \$1.8 million to address the decline of the park urban forest identified in 2015 and to address the dangerous conditions these trees pose to the public while improving the safety of park spaces for patrons to recreate.
- In addition, FY 23 also included for the first time, \$200,000 in structural funding and \$200,000 in one-time funds to begin a seven-year tree maintenance program. Regular tree trimming will help keep our park trees maintained in a healthier and safer condition moving forward, a major step in advancing enhanced tree maintenance. These funds are not associated with the tree removal project.
- Great Scott Tree Care Services is the contractor for tree trimming and removals. It is in their scope of work to perform nesting surveys and tree evaluations prior to any form of tree work beginning.
- Approximately 1,200 trees (3.75% of park trees) are scheduled to be removed this fiscal year with 662 trees already removed. The remaining tree work should be completed by the end of September 2023.
- The following parks are still left to perform tree removals through the end of September:
  - *Carroll Park (CD2), Orizaba Park (CD2), Plaza Zaferia (CD2), Rose Park (CD2), Channel View Park (CD3), El Dorado West (CD4), El Dorado Regional (CD4) Lily Park (CD4), Los Altos Park (CD 4), Los Altos Plaza (CD4), Stearns Park (CD4), Whaley Park (CD4), Pan Am Park (CD5), Sleepy Hollow (CD5) Wardlow Park (CD5), Willow Springs (CD5).*
- Power point reports have been used to document the current conditions of trees to be removed. The documents provide observations about the tree's health and structural condition that merit its removal. Information about park tree trimming and removal work will be provided on the PRM website at [LBParks.org](http://LBParks.org).
- New trees will be planted in collaboration with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach, the Office of Sustainability, and the Port of Long Beach as replanting plans are finalized, and resources become available following tree removals in parks. Over 800 new trees have been planted in parks where dead and dying trees were removed for safety reasons thru CalFire grant funding. Other grant funding is being pursued to an Urban Forestry Master Plan that would position the City for more successful grant funding. The department is focused upon "plan before you plant" for more successful outcomes in developing a healthy urban forest that includes all of our park trees.
- Questions from the community or Council offices can be directed to Hurley Owens, Park Maintenance Operations Bureau Manager, at (562) 570-4895 or [hurley.owens@longbeach.gov](mailto:hurley.owens@longbeach.gov).