



STUDY SESSION

Agenda Item # 1

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: November 13, 2018

Subject: Urban Forestry – Tree Preservation and Maintenance

Prepared by: Chris Jordan, City Manager

Attachment(s):
None

Initiated by:
City Council

Previous Council Consideration:
Not Applicable

Fiscal Impact:
Not Applicable

Environmental Review:
Not Applicable

Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:
None at this time -- this is a study session item

Summary:

- The City has a comprehensive urban forestry practice that includes an inventory of all trees on City-owned property; a maintenance plan for those trees, and a tree removal procedure for trees on City property and private property

Staff Recommendation:

Receive the report on the Urban Forestry Plan and provide guidance and feedback



Subject: Urban Forestry – Tree Preservation and Maintenance

Purpose

The City Council requested information pertaining to the City’s tree removal policies and procedures. This study session will cover that topic, as well as an overview of the City’s tree inventory and tree maintenance plans.

Background

For the study session, City staff will provide a presentation that includes a brief summary on the following topics:

- The City tree inventory and maintenance plan: In 2017, the City hired a consultant to complete an inventory and assessment of all the trees on City-owned property and develop a maintenance plan. That report can be found at:

https://www.losaltosca.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/los_altos_community/page/36391/los_altos_resource_analysis_20180330.pdf

- City staff will also discuss the tree removal permitting process focusing on:
 - 1) Trees on public property
 - 2) Trees on private property
 - 3) Trees on development sites

Staff has recently initiated a new noticing system for removal of trees and that will be discussed during the presentation.

- Heritage Trees: Heritage Trees are defined in the Municipal Code (11.080.010) as *“any tree so designated by the historical commission, based on the finding that the tree has character, interest, or value as part of the development of, and/or exemplification of, the cultural, educational, economic, agricultural, social, indigenous, or historical heritage of the city.”* Staff believes that there are many trees in town that may meet this definition and would like to discuss this with the Council.

Options/Recommendation

This a study session item. Staff welcomes the Council’s feedback and guidance on this topic.