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NEWPORT BEACH

Municipal Operations Department Monthly Activities Report

To: Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission

From: Municipal Operations Department

John Salazar, Acting Deputy Director



Special Trimming for Special Trees – Annual Trimming on Marine Avenue



Every year the City of Newport Beach schedules tree trimming of the Special Landmark City Eucalyptus trees along Marine Avenue on Balboa Island. City Arborist helped oversee the annual trimming. Prior to trimming, pruning specifications for each tree were developed, showing where specific pruning cuts were to be made.

To reduce impacts to the businesses and residents, the pruning was conducted over the course of two days, from approximately 7:00am to 10:30am. Pole pruners and hand pruners were utilized to reduce downward, heavy growth at the outer tips of the trees. Chainsaws were only sparingly used for deadwood and strategic structural pruning, specifically for overextended limbs over the businesses.

The focus of the trimming was to lightly remove end weight and perform more intensive structural pruning in phases. This approach lessens the likelihood of limb breakages, and if breaks do occur, the size of the failed limb is much smaller. The recent pruning is in advance of potentially stronger winter storms and will go a long way to prevent possible damage to the public, property, or the Landmark Trees themselves.

Balboa Island – Annual Christmas Tree Installation

Department staff and contractors helped trim and install the Christmas tree at Fire Station #4 on Balboa Island in late November.

This annual tradition dates to the 1940s when Tony and Mina Hershey began placing a Christmas tree at the corner of their gas station during the holiday season. This tradition continued through to the 1960s and was sporadically observed until the site was converted to the current Fire Station #4. Since then, the annual Christmas lighting ceremony has been a staple since the early 1990s.

Photo from the early 1950s



Installation Photo from November 2025



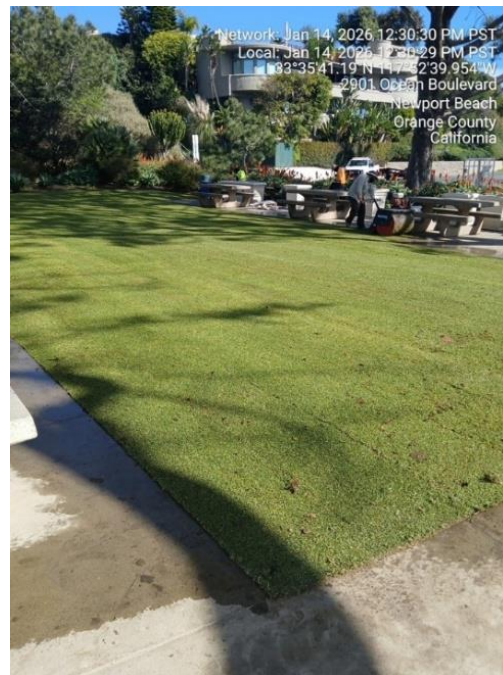
Cleanup From Recent Storms

Recently MOD staff spent the better part of two weeks cleaning up debris brought in from the recent winter storms. High tide combined with high winds and heavy rain had a high volume of sea debris and trash washing on shore, as well as sand blowing onto the boardwalk. Crews were deployed using heavy equipment, dump trucks, and staff on the ground to remove the issue. In November MOD staff installed wind fencing along the boardwalk to help combat heavy sand intrusions during wind events. This effort significantly decreased the volume needed to be removed. It is estimated city crews removed close to 150 tons of debris.



Corona Del Mar State Beach Picnic Area Sod

The Parks Division, in conjunction with Merchants Landscapes, renovated the picnic area at Corona Del Mar State Beach. The first step in the process was to remove all the trampled and worn-out sod from the busy summer season. The soil was then rototilled and graded, and necessary irrigation modification were completed. The next phase Merchants Landscape laid approximately 8,000 square feet of St. Augustine sod, rolled it, followed by watering. This process is performed every year to ensure that picnic area users have the best possible view and experience in one of our most sought after picnicking areas.



Special Tree Removals

On January 8 2026, a Public Works contractor conducted emergency removal of Special City Desert Gum *Eucalyptus (Eucalyptus rudis)* tree located at 432 Poppy Avenue.

A field inspection discovered the presence of a fungal conk on the trunk of the tree, which indicated the presence of internal decay. The conk was located at the main crotch of the tree which dramatically increases the likelihood of whole canopy failure. Moreover, impending winter storms further necessitated the emergency removal. A letter was sent to the property owner to allow them to select the tree replacement species.



Trees Maintenance

During the months of November and December, Great Scott Tree Service (GSTS) trimmed trees in Grid 17 Balboa Peninsula, the Purple Orchids in Grid 12 (CDM), and responded to 12 tree-related emergencies during one inclement weather event, plus completed nine service requests.

Month of:	# of Trees Trimmed:	# of Trees Removed:	# of Trees Removed Because a Problem Tree:	# of Trees Planted:
November	955	15	0	33

Prepared By:

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Parks and Trees Section