

PARKS BEACHES AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Council Policy G-1 - Recap

May 5, 2026



CITY OF
NEWPORT BEACH

COUNCIL POLICY G-1 BACKGROUND

- Since adoption in 1966, G-1 has been amended via:
 - 26 policy updates since adoption
 - Ad Hoc Council Policy Review Committee
 - PB&R Commission Ad Hoc Committees
 - Staff experience



RECENT REVISION SCOPE



Previous G-1

- Amended frequently since 1966



Current G-1

- Uniform structure
- Provides more clarity
- More consistency
- Eliminate redundancy



EXAMPLE

G-1

RETENTION, REMOVAL, AND MAINTENANCE OF CITY TREES

ii) Table of contents

i.) Goal of Policy

To establish and maintain appropriate diversity in tree species and age classes to provide a stable and sustainable urban forest with an inventory that the City can reasonably maintain in a healthy and safe condition through the efficient use of City resources. To require that in approving any tree removal or reforestation request, the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission ("Commission") shall find that the tree removal request will not adversely impact the overall inventory, diversity and age of the City's Urban Forest. To educate the public of the protections of the City's Urban Forest and guide, in a user-friendly way, the mechanisms in place for tree replacements.

ii.) Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish definitive standards for the retention, removal, maintenance, reforestation, tree trimming standards, and supplemental trimming of City trees. City trees are an important part of the character and charm of the entire City and provide environmental benefits as well. Regular care, trimming, root pruning, maintenance, and programmed replacement are necessary to preserve this charm while at the same time protecting public views consistent with City Council Policy G-3, providing personal safety, and preventing public and private property damage and providing a sustainable urban forest.

The City classifies public trees in one of three categories: Special City Trees, Problem City Trees, and Standard City Trees.

I. SPECIAL CITY TREES - iv.) B.)

It is the City's policy to retain Special City Trees ("Special Trees") categorized as Landmark, Dedicated, or Neighborhood trees, because they have historical significance, and/or contribute to, and give character to, a location or to an entire neighborhood. Landmark, Dedicated, and Neighborhood trees are identified by species in Exhibit A and shall hereinafter be collectively referred to as Special Trees. Trees within these three categories shall be identified, mapped, recorded and administered by staff for the Commission. When staff proposes modifications, the Commission shall review the Special Tree list and forward recommendations for additions or deletions to the City Council for approval.

Landmark Trees are identified as those individual Special Trees that possess historical significance by virtue of their size, age, location, or species.

Dedicated Trees are Special Trees donated in the memory of specific individuals or organizations. Updates will be made annually to the City tree inventory system that correspond to the amended B-17 Policy Parks, Facilities, and Recreation Program Donations. Exhibit A of this Policy will be updated annually to reflect updates.

Merged

G-1

RETENTION AND REMOVAL OF CITY TREES

Purpose

To establish and maintain appropriate diversity in tree species and age classes to provide a stable and sustainable urban forest with an inventory that the City can reasonably maintain in a healthy and safe condition through the efficient use of City resources. To educate the public of the protections of the City's Urban Forest and guide, in a user-friendly way, the mechanisms in place for tree replacements. With the passage of time, adjustments in the City's tree inventory may be necessary. Therefore, this policy also establishes definitive standards for the retention, removal and reforestation of City trees. City trees are an important part of the character and charm of the entire City and provide environmental benefits as well. Regular care and programmed replacements are necessary to preserve this charm while at the same time protecting public view consistent with City Council Policy G-3, providing personal safety, and preventing public and private property damage and providing a sustainable urban forest.

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Commission" is defined as the Newport Beach Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission.
- B. "Diseased" or "Diseased tree" is defined as a tree that cannot be cured by current arboricultural methods, in an advanced state of decline, and has no prospect of recovery.
- C. "Dying" or "Dying tree" is defined as a tree that has no prospect of recovery.
- D. "Hazardous" or "Hazardous tree" is defined as a tree that is defective, has a potential to fail, and would cause damage to public or private property upon failure.
- E. "Problem Tree" is defined as a tree whose virtue of its species is known to cause excessive hardscape or utility damage or to its excessive root system.

The following trees are designated as Problem Trees:

1. *Ficus nitida* (Invasive Fig)
2. *Ficus rubiginosa* (Stray Fig)
3. *Ficus benjamina* (Weeping Fig)
4. *Fraxinus uhdei* (Hazel Ash)
5. *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* (Carrotwood)
6. *Liquidambar styraciflua* (American Sweet Gum)
7. *Schinus terebinthifolius* (Brazilian Pepper)
8. A tree that the City Arborist determines is infested with Tuliptree scale (*Toumeyella liriodendri*)
9. A City Tree that causes the private property owner to lose their fire insurance

Newly added

Relocated to page 04

BASIC CHANGES

- The G-1 Policy was reorganized with limited substantive revisions.
- The new framework lays out a similar structure to the City's other permit processes including:
 - Definitions, basis for removal of city trees,
 - Application process,
 - Findings necessary to remove trees,
 - Reforestation/appeals process, and
 - Public hearing/notification requirements.



OTHER CHANGES

SUBJECT	CHANGE
Problem Trees	Trees infested with Tuliptree Scale to a degree of property damage and trees preventing property owners gaining fire insurance
Petition Signatures	Property owners appealing through reforestation and in a dense community will have the petition area set at a <u>maximum</u> of 100 properties
Notifications	Notifications on Standard and Problem Trees that are not of an emergency nature will be seven (7) days advance notice versus 14
Final Decision	PB&R is the <u>final decision-making authority</u> on appeals and reforestations
Inventory	Special tree inventory numbers were updated with removals and additions since the last amendment.

G-6 POLICY (MAINTENANCE & PLANTING OF PARKWAY TREES)

Council Policy G-1 contained provisions that were more appropriate in Council Policy G-6 (*Maintenance and Planting of Parkway Trees*).

The following sections were removed from G-1 and incorporated into G-6:

- Section VI (Tree Maintenance)
- Section VIII (Tree Trimming Standards)
- Section IX (Supplemental Tree Trimming)



CONCLUSION

A future opportunity for Commission to review and provide suggestions to Council Policy G-1 will occur as staff will be recommending updating the policy after Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the city-wide tree inventory updates and completion of the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP).

RECOMMENDATION

Commission receive and file the revisions to Council Policy G-1 (Retention and Removal of City Trees)

QUESTIONS

Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission

May 5, 2026

