

TREE CARE MANUAL

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

1.0 Introduction to Section Items

In order to provide the required and recommended care for removal and replacement of regulated trees, the **Tree Care Manual** provides information regarding existing codes, technical regulations, standards, and guides and specifications necessary to implement the best management practices for trees regulated by Ordinances, Policies, and Procedures.

The DRP recognizes and implements regulatory procedures for trees specified in the Tree Preservation Policy under four categories: *Trees Protected by LA City Ordinances*, *Heritage Trees*, *Special Habitat Value Trees*, and all other *Common Park Trees*. For a detailed reference of protected trees, please see the *DRP Tree Preservation Policy* (Appendix A).

2.0 Definitions

This section is a list of the arboricultural and construction-related terms and their definitions as used in the *Manual*. They serve to outline uniform concepts and provide an understanding of events as discussed in the document.

3.0 Tree Maintenance Guidelines

This section provides best management practices for tree care operations that meet standards with minimal harm to trees. It provides information based on tree biology and arboricultural research over the last decade. It discusses techniques vital to maintaining good tree structure. It also outlines specifications for maintaining trees growing in turf. This section describes practices to avoid and recommends maintenance applications that promote tree health.

4.0 Protection of Trees During Construction

This section provides information necessary to preserve trees during all stages of construction. It discusses tree growth characteristics as they pertain to construction. It provides alternative solutions to minimize or eliminate damage to trees. It explains the tree preservation process from evaluating the resource through planning, design, impact evaluation, construction, and post-construction management. This section includes instructional handouts and references for a wide-range of applications on construction sites.

5.0 Tree Removal, Replacement, and Planting

Procedures for tree removal and replacement specify step-by-step actions that are taken when a tree or group of trees require removal. The chapter also discusses the latest specifications for tree selection and planting. It includes the **Tree Planting and Selection Guidelines** established for the DRP.

6.0 Tree Evaluation for Hazard and Economical Value

All trees have the potential to fail, but only a relative few actually do fail. In establishing criteria to evaluate trees for hazards, the focus is given to trees in urban areas, recognizing the unique combinations of species and site character found in cities. An understanding of hazard evaluation, risk management and liability are critical for Department managers and arborists. The general public often does not understand the criteria for tree removal, and the DRP's position regarding the removal of hazardous trees is clarified in this chapter. In situations when trees must be appraised, a method is provided that is most useful in City park settings.

7.0 Safety Standards

The latest American National Standards Institute (ANSI) safety standards for tree care operations are contained here, including safety criteria for employees and the public. The DRP Code of Safe Practices, established exclusively for the Department's Forestry Operation, is presented here.

8.0 Appendices

Sources are provided for technical information and supplemental material referenced within the Manual. These are highly recommended for any Department staff interacting with trees or making decisions affecting trees. Source material is given for the preservation of trees and the sustainability of the urban forest.

9.0 Assumptions

The DRP assumes no responsibility for matters legal in character that are contained in this *Manual*. The *Manual* was created to conform to current standards of care, best management practices, established technical specifications, evaluation and appraisal procedures, and sound arboricultural practices as recommended by the sources listed in the References section.

10.0 References

Various reference resources were used to compile the Urban Forest Program. All of the resources are listed. It is recommended that these materials be obtained and kept as desk references.