



# Urban Forest Subcommittee Updates

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## What We've Been Doing

1. Street tree list
2. Tree protection ordinance
3. Canopy cover
4. Urban Forest Master Plan
5. Herbicides/Pesticides
6. Funding
7. Meeting with experts
  - Palo Alto Urban Forester Peter Gollinger
  - PlanIT Geo
  - Davey Resource Group



# Urban Forest Snapshots



**Tree Equity Score: 71**

## Los Altos, CA

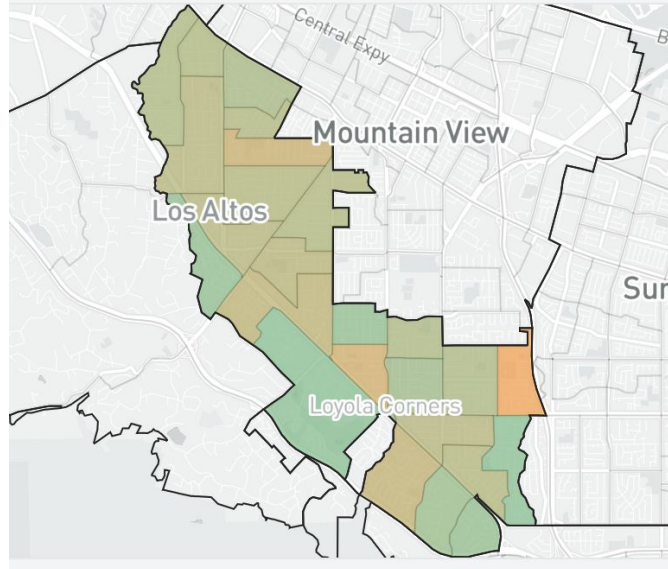
Tree canopy coverage is **29.84%**

Tree canopy change is **-2.72%**



Provided by PlanIT Geo

## Municipality Tree Equity Score Map



From TreeEquityScore.org



# Current Tree Management Programs in Los Altos

- City works and planning has designated staff for
  - Reviewing/granting tree removal permits
  - Keeping track of City-owned tree inventory
  - Performing regular maintenance
- No resident arborist on board
- Trees on public land and on public right of way managed by public works
  - Trees are logged in TreeKeeper Database
  - ~ <100 removed/year
- Tree on private land controlled by the Planning Department
  - 100-200 removal permits per year, maybe multiple trees/permit
  - Additional trees removed for development



# Tree Protection Ordinance Topics to Figure Out

1. Trees to protect
2. Removal permit fee
3. Clear permit approval criteria
4. Tree replacement requirements / in-lieu fee  
(tree valuation)
5. Penalty for removing/harming a tree
6. Tree management fund
7. Urban Forest Master Plan

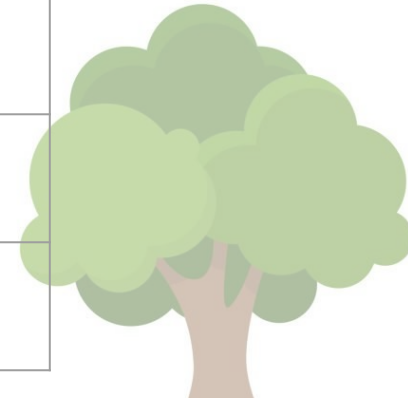


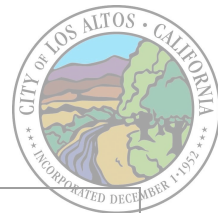
# Bay Area Comparative Tree Protection Ordinance Findings



	<b>Neighboring Cities</b>	<b>Los Altos</b>
<b>Protection Criteria</b>	Diameter at breast height (DBH): 6” to 15” or circumference used: 20” to 48” Specific long-living species and natives	48” circumference at 4ft. height above grade
<b>Trimming Penalty</b>	Varies from \$100 to \$1k+	None
<b>Removal Penalty</b>	Varies from \$500 to \$10k+	\$100-\$500 Rarely enforced
<b>Removal Permit Fee</b>	\$100 to \$760 Sometimes based on species or tree’s health	\$55
<b>Replacement Criteria</b>	1:1 to 6:1 May depend on size of tree or canopy lost	1 for 1
<b>In-Lieu Fee</b>	Some have enacted, some don’t Varies from \$100 to \$7k or 1 to 2x tree value	None

In addition, most cities protect all public trees regardless of size





# Recently Updated Tree Tree Protection Ordinance Examples

	<b>Update</b>	<b>Protection Criteria</b>	<b>Removal Fee</b>	<b>Replacement</b>	<b>In Lieu Fee</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
<b>Los Altos</b>	N/A	circumference 48" (15" dia)"	\$55/permit	1:1	none	\$100-500
<b>Palo Alto</b>	2022	15" diameter Oaks 11.5"	\$450 per tree	2:1 to 6:1 24" boxes	Tree value	≥ \$10k
<b>East Palo Alto</b>	2022 (in process)	8" diameter	\$356-762 per tree	≥ 1:1	True Cost of replacement	\$100+
<b>Menlo Park</b>	2020	15" diameter Oaks 10"	\$180-210	≥ 1:1 24" box	\$100-7k	≥ \$5k
<b>Cupertino</b>	2022	12" diameter	\$300-450	≥2:1	≥ cost of replacement	Decided by director



## Subcommittee Next Steps

- Work with staff to:
  - City managed tree inventory change over time
  - Removal data for trees on privately owned land
- Work with experts/consultants on development of
  - Tree protection ordinance updates
  - Canopy analysis
  - Urban forest master plan
- Seek funds to initiate programs
  - City funds
  - Grants
- Arbor Day Foundation Tree City designation for Los Altos







## Possible Funding Sources

- City annual budget
- California expected to have up to 85 MM for grants next month
- Cal-Fire grants application
  - ***Urban Forest Program (UFP) provides grants to help create sustainable urban forest and increase the long-term benefits trees provide.***
  - Awards have been granted since 2018
- Private and corporate foundation grants
- Over time, build up tree development fund





## Cal-Fire Grants: Other Bay Area cities received (2021-2022)

City	Grants	Scope of Work
Friends of Urban Forest, San Francisco	\$1,490,016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Plant 1,000 trees</li><li>● Host communities street fairs</li><li>● 6 jobs and training</li></ul>
Carmel-by-the-Sea	\$150,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Plant 108 trees</li><li>● Tree inventory/canopy analyses</li><li>● Urban forest management plan</li><li>● Education/Outreach</li></ul>
City of Fremont	\$850,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Plant 1,000 trees</li><li>● Create tree maintenance plan</li><li>● Community engagement in tree stewardship program</li></ul>

