

Appendix A COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

To get input on community priorities for preparation of the Sacramento Urban Forest Plan, the following survey was available online and distributed at pop-up events from August-October 2018. The following summarizes the responses to the survey and the numerous individual comments. Each written comment has been “coded” with a brief description that helps capture what the response is about and allows for better summarizing the results of the entire survey effectively. The coded summaries of the written responses are provided below the results of the corresponding question.

Sacramento Urban Forest Master Plan: Community Survey

The trees planted throughout the City of Sacramento are its “urban forest.” An urban forest is the network of trees in a city. Scientists have found that urban forests provide many environmental and health benefits. Unlike natural forests, however, most City trees have to be planted and cared for by people.

We really want to hear Sacramento residents’ ideas! Your responses to this survey will be used to create the Urban Forest Master Plan. The Urban Forest Master Plan is important because it will establish the City’s goals and actions necessary to ensure that future generations continue to enjoy the benefits of a healthy urban forest in Sacramento.

The survey should take about 5 to 10 minutes. Thank you for your input.

1)

Trees are important to the quality of life in Sacramento.	Response %	Response Count
Very True	93.05%	1,581
True	6.42%	1,581
Not True	0.24%	4
Definitely, not true	0.18%	3
Not Sure	0.12%	2
		1,699

2)

I value trees for the following reason: (select your top five)	Response %	Response Count
They shade streets, sidewalks, and bike trails	76.46%	1,299
They clean the air	70.69%	1,201
Their beauty	70.22%	1,193
They bring birds and wildlife	46.62%	792
They save energy	46.14%	784
They support human health	41.44%	704
They reduce greenhouse gases	37.3%	636
They define my neighborhood	35.31%	600
I enjoy being outside in shady parks	25.78%	438
They shade parking lots	19.42%	330
They increase property values	13.89%	236
They absorb stormwater runoff	11.54%	196
Other (please specify)	5.06%	86
Total		1,699

Respondents who selected “Other” wrote responses that fell into the following categories:

- Desire to select more than five reasons they value trees
- Importance of trees to Sacramento’s city identity
- Importance of trees for cooling and urban heat reduction
- Importance of trees for ecological and environmental health
- Trees providing calming and connection to nature
- Trees improving quality of life and livability
- Trees providing food
- Trees providing resilience to climate change
- Trees improving air quality
- Trees providing noise pollution reduction

3)

Are there enough trees in your neighborhood?	Response %	Response Count
---	-------------------	-----------------------

No, not enough trees	55.56%	944
Yes, there are enough trees	38.38%	652
Not sure	4.83%	82
There are too many trees	1.24%	21
Total		1,699

4)

Are there enough trees throughout the city?	Response %	Response Count
No, not enough trees	73.87%	1,255
Yes, there are enough trees	16.01%	272
Not sure	9.54%	162
There are too many trees	0.59%	10
Total		1,699

5)

Is there anything else you would like to say about trees in Sacramento?	Response Count
	1,012 Answered
	687 Skipped
	1,699 Total

Respondents wrote responses that fell into the following categories:

- Increasing canopy and planting trees:
 - Respondents described a desire to see more trees planted, desire for large scale planting efforts, concern about lack of trees in new development, desire for more large and mature trees, desire for more park school and parking lot trees, desire for removed trees to be replaced, expressed concern about small trees being planted to replace large trees, and recommended specific planting locations.
- Protecting existing trees:
 - Respondents described the importance of proactive preservation of mature and heritage trees, opposition to removing trees, emphasis on caring for existing trees, concern about private property owners removing trees, and concern about topping and excessive pruning.
- Proper care and maintenance:
 - Respondents emphasized the importance of managing tree hazards and unhealthy/dead/dying trees. Emphasized the importance of proper care for safety and tree health. Described the importance of maintenance for pest and disease

control and longevity of mature trees. Expressed uncertainty about who holds responsibility for maintenance, concerns about proper watering and drought stress, and concerns about maintenance costs.

- Equity and distribution of trees across the city:
 - Respondents noted canopy cover changed significantly between certain neighborhoods and expressed concern that there were not enough trees in socio-economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.
- Recognition of trees as a defining feature of Sacramento:
 - Respondents identified trees as important to livability in Sacramento, as an important consideration in why they live in or moved to Sacramento, a desire to rebrand Sacramento as "the City of Trees", and trees as beautifying their neighborhoods and as important cultural resources.
- Criticism of city policies and programs:
 - Respondents expressed concerns that city policies and enforcement efforts are insufficient to protect existing canopy, that tree requirements in new development are insufficient, that tree removals for development need to be more strictly regulated, that maintenance of city trees is insufficient, and a perception that city services are unequally distributed between all neighborhoods.
- Appreciation for the benefits and importance of trees:
 - Respondents expressed appreciation for the benefits trees provide including shading, cooling, beauty, environmental benefits, crime prevention, air quality, increased home values, and increased appeal of neighborhoods. Respondents also expressed preferences and appreciation for specific tree species.
- Concerns about trees:
 - Respondents expressed concerns about property damage from trees, allergies, the tree population aging and dying off, and specific criticism of certain tree species. A few respondents questioned the importance of trees as a city priority.
- Concerns about conflicts between trees and other infrastructure:
 - Respondents expressed concerns about conflicts between trees and utilities (both overhead and underground), streetlights, sidewalks, and generally trees being planted in unsuitable locations that cause damage.
- Concerns about climate change:
 - Respondents raised concerns about the impact of climate change on the urban forest, specifically issues regarding tree species diversity, hardiness, and adaptability to increased drought and extreme storms. Respondents also highlighted the importance of trees for combatting climate change, including for air quality and urban cooling.
- Importance of native trees:
 - Respondents expressed appreciation for native oaks and heritage trees and identified native trees importance for the natural ecology and wildlife as a priority.
- Addressing food insecurity:
 - Respondents hoped to see more fruit and nut bearing trees in the city and increased gleaning efforts to provide food to low-income and un-housed populations.
- New programs:
 - Respondents wanted to see workforce development programs to provide entry level employment to local youth and young adults. Respondents wanted to see

the city develop incentive programs for private maintenance, planting, and watering.

- Desire for more collaboration across sectors:
 - Respondents showed support for the Sacramento Tree Foundation and desire for SMUD and PG&E to be more proactive in managing tree/utility conflicts and replanting efforts. Respondents expressed desire to see increased planting in collaboration with schools, including outdoor education for K-12.
- Appreciation of city efforts to maintain trees:
 - Respondents expressed appreciation for city maintenance crews caring for trees along streets and in parks and want to see increased funding for maintenance.

6)

Did you know that the City has a program for planting and taking care of public trees? Please check all the answers below that are true for you:	Response %	Response Count
I was aware the City responds to tree emergencies (falling trees and limbs)	58.26%	924
I have seen trees with signs that say they'll be removed	42.12%	668
I did not know that the City has a program for planting and taking care of trees	39.03%	619
I have used the City's tree website or called for information about trees	22.51%	357
I have read in the newspaper about what the City is doing to plant and take care of trees	17.02%	270
I have asked for a permit to remove a City tree	2.59%	41
Other (please specify)	12.36%	196
Total		1,586

Respondents who selected "Other" wrote responses that fell into the following categories:

- Criticism of the city program
- Limited knowledge/uncertainty about the city tree program
- Confusion about the city program vs other programs
- Praise of the city program

- General comments, including specific issues and personal experiences

7)

Do you think that the public trees in Sacramento are getting good care from the City?	Response %	Response Count
I don't know	39.22%	622
Yes	36.82%	584
No	15.38%	244
Yes, very good	5.23%	83
No, not at all	3.34%	53
Total		1,586

8)

Where does Sacramento need to plant more trees? Please pick your top three.	Response %	Response Count
In neighborhoods lacking trees	82.98%	1,316
Along public streets	51.51%	817
In parking lots	34.87%	553
In industrial areas or business parks	28.44%	451
At schools	25.98%	412
In median islands in roads	25.09%	398
In parks	21.88%	347
Along trails and bike paths	19.92%	316
Sacramento has enough trees and doesn't need to plant any more	1.77%	28
Other (please specify)	7.57%	120
Total		1,586

Respondents who selected "Other" wrote responses that fell into the following categories:

- In disadvantaged communities (specifically areas in South and North Sacramento were frequently mentioned)
- Along streets and sidewalks to make biking, walking, and public transit safer

- To shade buildings: apartments, new homes, and commercial businesses
- To replace removed trees
- Specific locations: addresses, schools, vacant lots, parks, playgrounds
- General comments, including specific issues and personal experiences

9)

What would you like to learn about? Please check all that you would enjoy.	Response %	Response Count
How to properly water trees during drought	51.70%	820
Caring for trees on my property	42.18%	669
Different kinds of trees in the City	42.06%	667
Caring for street trees	33.98%	539
How to get free trees to plant at my house	31.27%	496
How to contact the City about tree problems	24.19%	395
Best places in Sacramento to see trees	21.25%	337
Planting trees	21.19%	336
How trees save money	16.02%	254
Benefits of trees	13.37%	212
How to recycle and dispose of leaves and tree trimmings	12.99%	206
Jobs in the tree care industry	7.06%	112
Other (please specify)	10.84%	172

Respondents who selected “Other” wrote responses that fell into the following categories:

- Tree care and maintenance
- City policies and programs
- How to get involved in supporting tree services
- General urban forestry concepts
- Agroforestry and urban food forests
- Resources for renters and landlords
- Multilingual resources
- Not interested/already knowledgeable

10)

What would inspire you to plant more trees? Check all that apply to you.	Response %	Response Count
Free or low-cost trees	61.60%	977
Get money back (a rebate)	37.89%	601
Have big tree classes in my neighborhood	34.62%	549
Nothing, there are enough trees	6.37%	101
Other (please specify) <i>*Coded responses listed below</i>	24.02%	381
Total		1,586

Respondents who selected “Other” wrote responses that fell into the following categories:

- Education and outreach about why tree planting is important
- Community events (some respondents recommended raffles and give aways at events)
- Enthusiasm from their neighbors (i.e., promotion at neighborhoods association meetings, being a part of a community-wide effort)
- They would but they do not have the space or personal property
- Assistance with planting and maintenance
- Education about planting, care, watering, and maintenance
- Do not want to plant because of concerns with water usage and root damage
- Financial incentives such as grants and subsidies for planting, maintenance, dead tree removal, and water
- Environmental benefits of planting
- They want to but are unable to plant due to restrictions (i.e., HOA, landlord, etc.)

11)

Do you have any other comments on how to increase tree planting in Sacramento?	Response Count
	491

Respondents wrote responses that fell into the following categories:

- Policy and Regulation:
 - Enforce existing policies
 - Develop new policies and codes requiring trees
 - Increase funding
 - Increase city tree inventory by taking responsibility for all front yard trees and maintenance cost
- Education and Awareness:
 - Advertise existing programs
 - Perform education and awareness-raising campaigns about tree care topics

- Provide educational resources about the benefits and importance of trees
- Provide education about the value and importance of California native oaks
- Community Engagement:
 - Host community tree planting events and provide volunteer opportunities
 - Provide neighborhood-based programs and workshops to encourage residents to plant and care for trees
 - Focus on disadvantaged communities for education, outreach, planting, and maintenance programs
 - Provide education to K-12 youth in coordination with schools
- Tree Management and Maintenance:
 - Properly fund and implement maintenance of newly planted trees on public and private property throughout their lifetime
 - Prioritize preserving existing mature trees and limit tree removals
 - Ensure diseased and dying trees are quickly removed and replaced
- Strategic Planting:
 - Target school districts and school campuses for tree planting and youth education
 - Prioritize planting in low-canopy disadvantaged neighborhoods and streets
 - Use documented tree canopy cover to monitor and create a plan for city policy and practices to expand tree canopy cover
 - Strategically plant trees to shade playgrounds, parks, vacant lots, parking lots, streets, and on/off ramps
 - Maximize canopy on city property
 - Replace removed trees and target age-related succession planting
- Financial Incentives
 - Offer low or no-interest loans, rebates, and grant programs to private residential property for tree maintenance
 - Providing incentives to commercial property owners to improve existing parking lots and landscape areas
 - Offer rebates, and economic incentives to increase tree planting
 - Offer free trees and tree care supplies (i.e., irrigation, pruning services, etc.)
 - Develop a workforce development program
- Appreciation
 - For trees, city services, and community engagement on tree topics
- Personal Anecdotes
- No comment

12)

What is your age?	Response %	Response Count
-------------------	------------	----------------

56+	37.64%	592
46-55	15.83%	249
36-45	20.15%	317
26-35	21.93%	345
18-25	<1%	68
Under 18	<1%	2
Total		1,573

13)

Please check all that are true about you.	Response %	Response Count
I live in Sacramento	91.99%	1,447
I have planted trees in my own yard or I've convinced neighbors to plant trees in their yards	59.82%	941
I work in Sacramento or I come to Sacramento often	54.61%	859
I have donated to a non-profit tree organization or I'm a volunteer for one	22.70%	357
I have planted public trees as a volunteer	16.47%	259
None of the above	<1%	10
Total		1,573