

**CITY OF PALOS VERDES ESTATES  
TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**1. GOALS**

It is recognized that the abundance of mature trees is a central factor in creating the unique character of Palos Verdes Estates contributing to the high property values and attractiveness of the living environment.

The goal of the Tree Management Policy is to create an orderly procedure by which residents can petition for approval to trim or remove public trees and vegetation when views are, or are becoming, significantly obstructed, or for other non-view related reasons.

Therefore, when considering applications for approval to trim or remove public trees or vegetation, the Parklands Committee will strive to strike a reasonable balance between the preservation of views, the protection and enhancement of mature trees, the protection of privacy and the protection of public safety for each property owner.

When a tree is approved to be removed, the City will require the planting of a new tree or the payment of an in-lieu fee to the City for the planting of a tree elsewhere in the City. The City may waive this requirement for applications involving the removal of a non-designated street tree. It is the intent of the Policy to not diminish the number of trees in the City, and that by adding trees of different types and ages the Policy will help “renew our aging urban forest”.

**2. CONSIDERATIONS**

**A. View-related Applications**

1. Views. When considering an application for the pruning or removal of public trees or vegetation for view restoration, the Parklands Committee shall respect and, to the greatest extent practicable, shall strive to preserve or enhance, scenic views from the main viewing area of a residential structure.

2. Neighborhood Character. When considering an application for the pruning or removal of public trees or vegetation for view restoration, the Parklands Committee shall respect the existing neighborhood character, and should not make a recommendation that will result in significantly altering the unique feeling of the

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particular neighborhood.

3. Privacy. When considering an application for the pruning or removal of public trees or vegetation for view restoration, the Parklands Committee shall respect the privacy of neighbors by maintaining to the greatest extent practicable adequate screening of structures and yards from the sight of neighbors.

4. Public Safety. When considering an application for the pruning or removal of public trees or vegetation, the Parklands Committee shall consider to the extent reasonably practicable the preservation or enhancement of public safety.

5. Designated Street Tree. When considering an application for the pruning or removal of street trees, the Parklands Committee shall consider if the street tree is consistent with the existing or prior designated street tree list.

B. Non-view-related Applications. When considering an application for the pruning or removal of public trees or vegetation for non-view related reasons, the Parklands Committee must seek to strike a reasonable balance between the preservation and enhancement of mature trees, the protection of privacy, and the preservation and enhancement of public safety for each property owner.

1. Neighborhood Character. When considering an application for the pruning or removal of public trees or vegetation that is not based on view restoration, the Parklands Committee shall respect the existing neighborhood character and should not make a recommendation that will result in significantly altering the unique feeling of the particular neighborhood.

2. Privacy. When considering an application for the pruning or removal of public trees or vegetation that is not based on view restoration, the Parklands Committee shall respect the privacy of neighbors by maintaining to the greatest extent practicable adequate screening of structures and yards from the sight of neighbors.

3. Public Safety. When considering an application for the pruning or removal of public trees or vegetation that is not based on view restoration, the Parklands Committee shall consider to the extent reasonably practicable the preservation or enhancement of public safety.

4. Designated Street Tree. When considering an application for the pruning or removal of street trees, the Parklands Committee shall consider if the street tree is consistent with the existing or prior designated street tree list.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

"Scenic View" shall mean a view of the community and its landscapes, ocean, city lights, canyons, golf courses, and other visually impressive scenic vistas from the Main

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Viewing Area of a residence.

"Main Viewing Area" shall mean the primary living area of a residential structure. Hallways, closets, mechanical rooms, bathrooms and garages shall not be considered "Main Viewing Areas."

"Street Trees" means trees or shrubs in public places along city streets, roads, boulevards and alleys pursuant to PVEMC Section 12.16.020(D).

"Designated Street Tree" shall mean a tree is included on a list of street trees pursuant to PVEMC Section 12.16.050 which may be planted in each of the parkway areas of the city, which list shall be available to the public to aid in the choice of trees to be planted.

"Existing Non-Designated Street Tree" shall mean a tree planted within public property that was planted prior to or is not consistent with the existing or prior designated street tree list for the specified area.

"Significant View Obstruction." The following criteria should be considered in determining whether a significant view obstruction has occurred:

- a. The extent of obstruction the foliage has within a scenic view, both currently and at foliage maturity.
- b. The quality of the pre-existing scenic view being obstructed, including without limitation, obstruction of landmarks, vista or other unique features.
- c. The extent to which the view has been diminished over time by factors other than tree growth, such as new additions or residences.
- d. The extent to which the view contributes to the economic value and enjoyment of the Applicant's property.

### **4. ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS**

The Public Works Director shall establish administrative regulations to implement this policy.