



**Adopt an Ordinance Requiring  
Staffing at Self-Service  
Checkout Stations**  
**City Council Meeting**  
**February 17, 2026**



# Background

- August 12, 2025, Long Beach City Council adopted ordinance to mandate staffing requirements at grocery and drug retail stores
- November 4, 2026, Costa Mesa staff presented a preliminary analysis of the City of Long Beach ordinance and impacts of implementing a measure in Costa Mesa.
- January 20, 2026, City Council votes 3-2 to adopt an ordinance similar to the City of Long Beach ordinance with modifications.
- February 3, 2026, Councilmember Reynolds proposed amendments adopted 6-0.

# February 3, 2026, City Council Meeting

## Amendments to Proposed Ordinance:

- Extend the right to cure from seven to fifteen days
- Delay implementation of ordinance to 60 days after adoption
- Require only that signage is posted stating self-checkout is limited to about 15 items
- Revise in-store notifications to eliminate reference to enforcement options

Report back to City Council with an update in one year

# Proposed Costa Mesa Ordinance

- Applies to:
  - Food retail establishments over 15,000 square feet and those over 85,000 square feet with 10% of sale floor dedicated to non-taxable merchandise (groceries and prepared food)
  - Drug retail establishments
- Requires one employee per three stations (1:3)
- Requires signage at self-checkout limiting to 15 items and prohibits items locked or with theft-deterrent measures
- Enforced through private right of action
  - 15 days to cure
  - Penalties of \$100 per day (\$1,000 maximum per employee per day)
  - Attorney's Fees and Costs

# Recommendations

Adopt Ordinance No. 2026-XX Adding Article 7 of Chapter II of Title 9 to the Costa Mesa Municipal Code relating to Grocery and Drug Store Staffing Standards for Self-Service Checkout Stations

# AGREEMENT WITH BRACKENS KITCHEN FOR KITCHEN OPERATIONS AT THE BRIDGE SHELTER

City Council Meeting  
February 17, 2026



# Background

April 2022 – The City executed an agreement with Bracken’s Kitchen for Kitchen Operations at the Bridge Shelter. To date, Bracken’s Kitchen has:

- Prepared approximately 36,000 meals
- Exceeded expectations regarding food quality, kitchen management, and customer service
- Volunteered to assist Life On The Streets (LOTS) with preparing breakfast for attendees at weekly meetings
- Maintained costs through private donations and fundraising

# Request for Proposals

- The City's agreement with Bracken's Kitchen expires April 2026.
- The City released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Kitchen Operations at the Bridge Shelter in October 2025.
- The City received proposals from two (2) vendors:
  - Bracken's Kitchen
  - Everytable

# Proposal Overview

## Bracken's Kitchen

- Staffing – On-site staff and volunteers
- Meals – Cooked on-site and served fresh
- Cost - \$13.50 per person, per day
  - \$492,750 maximum per year
  - Cost based on actual meals served
- Additional Services –
  - Culinary Training Program
  - Movie Nights, Ice Cream Socials
  - Pasta Party, Burgers & Brats, Surf & Turf

## Everytable

- Staffing – No on-site staff or volunteers
- Meals – Cooked off-site and delivered
- Cost - \$15.75 per person, per day
  - \$520,262 maximum per year
  - Cost based on actual meals served
- Additional Services – None

# Recommendations

Staff recommends the City Council approve the Professional Services Agreement with Bracken's Kitchen for Kitchen Operations at the Bridge Shelter.



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# URBAN TREE CANOPY AND LAND ASSESSMENT

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City Council Meeting  
February 17, 2026



# Background – Current Conditions

- City's urban forest of approximately 22,700 trees.
- Estimated value of over \$100 million.
- 325 Different tree species.
- 94% of existing trees rated Fair or Good.
  - 87% rated in Good condition
- The City's Urban Forest and canopy contributes to:
  - Environmental quality
  - Public health
  - Water management
  - Aesthetics and real property values



# Background – Assessment

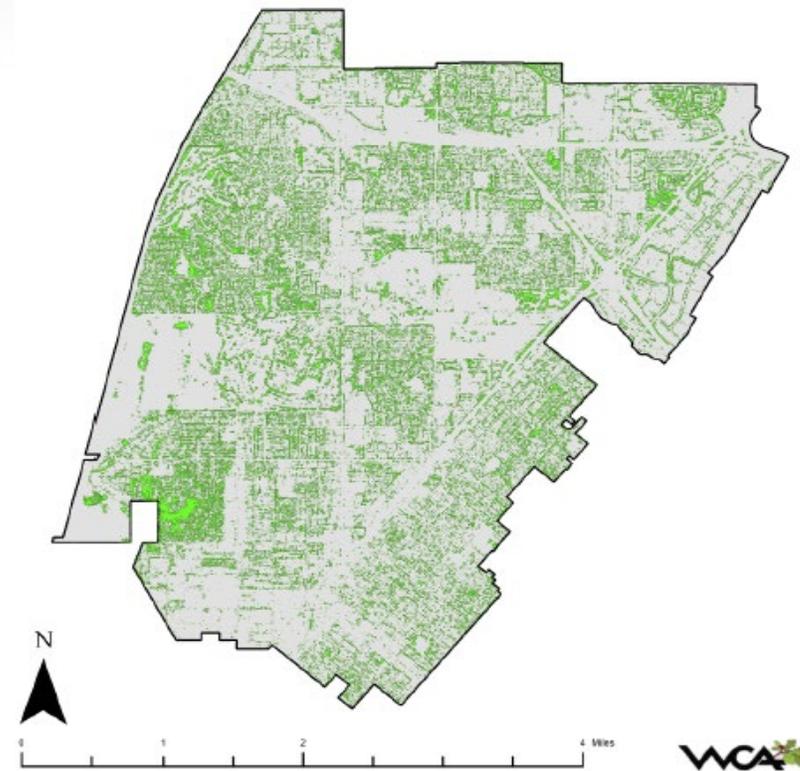
## Goals of the assessment:

- Provide a baseline evaluation of Costa Mesa's tree canopy.
- Analyze its distribution.
- Provide data that can guide future strategies for urban forest development and management across all areas of the City.
- Means to measure progress.



# Assessment Boundaries

- The study evaluated Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) and Possible Planting Areas (PPA) across multiple geographic scales:
  - One Citywide boundary
  - Six Council Districts
  - 37 Census tracts
  - 20 Land-use groups
  - 34 Designated park areas
- This multi-scale approach allows for targeted decision-making to enhance Costa Mesa's urban forest.



# Methodology

- Data Sources

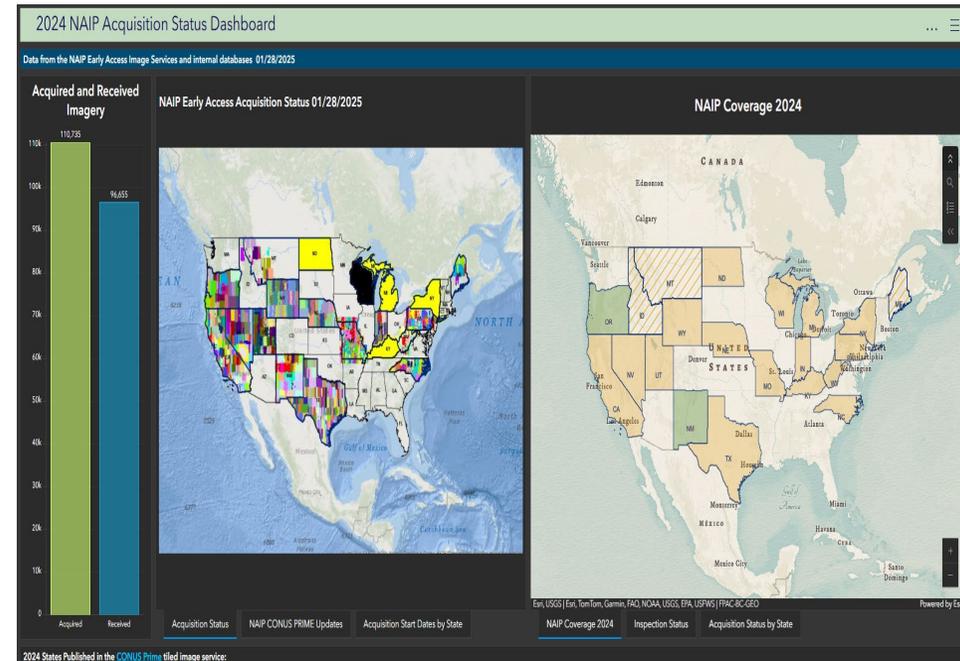
- High resolution imagery from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- GIS Layers from the City were added to ensure accuracy with local land use classifications.

- Pervious vs. Impervious Surfaces

- Pervious land allows water infiltration.
- Impervious lands prevents water infiltration.

- Suitable vs. Unsuitable Planting Areas

- Suitable planting areas where establishment is both feasible and beneficial.
- Unsuitable planting areas are impractical or conflicts with existing land functions.



# Citywide Canopy Coverage

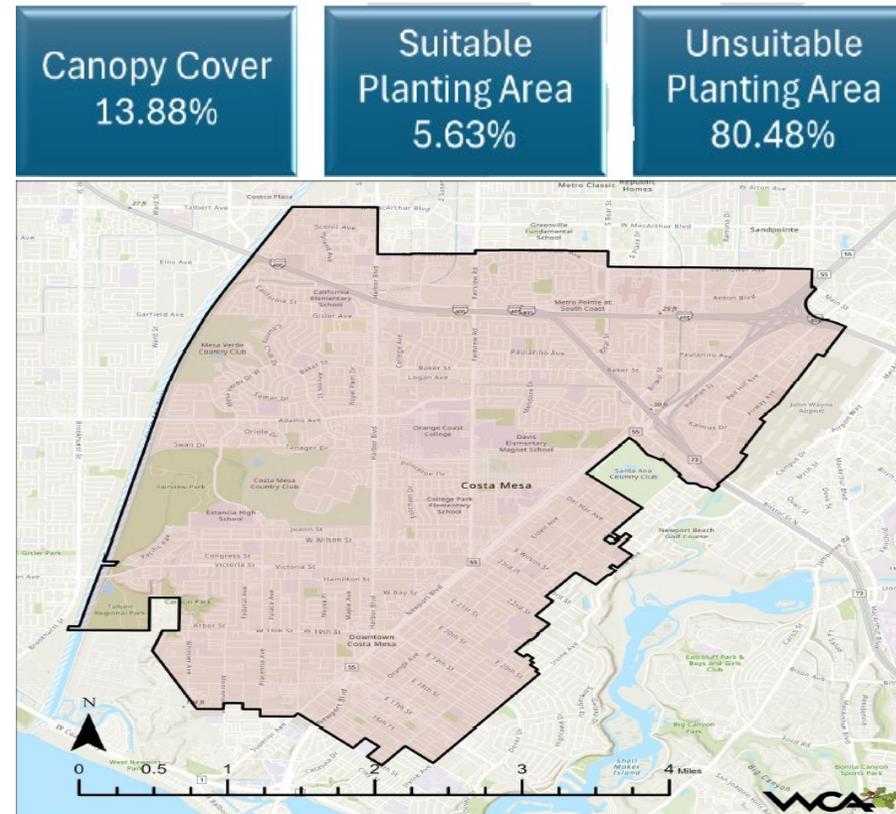
Canopy Coverage in the City of Costa Mesa as of 2024 – 13.88%

- Areas unsuitable for planting – 80.48%
- Area suitable for future planting – 5.63%

How does the City of Costa Mesa Compare?

- City of Newport Beach – 12.6%
- City of Irvine – 12.7%
- City of Santa Ana – 11.6%
- City of Huntington Beach – 8.8%
- City of Tustin – 10.1%
- Southern California Regional Average – 15%

Recommend minimum urban canopy cover of 20% to promote environmental resilience, mitigate urban heat, and enhance livability.



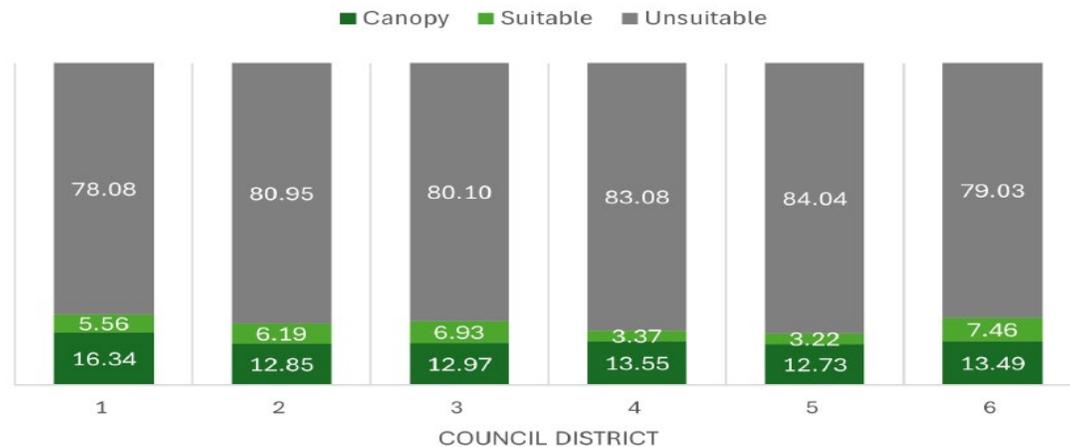
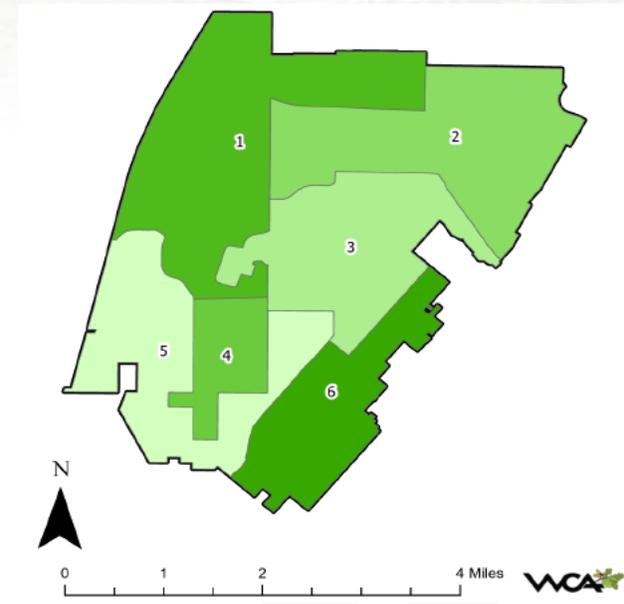
# Tree Canopy by Council District

District 1 has the highest tree canopy coverage while District 5 has the lowest.

Other Districts within a 4% range of District 1.

District 1 has the lower percentage of potential planting area but is the largest District in terms of land mass.

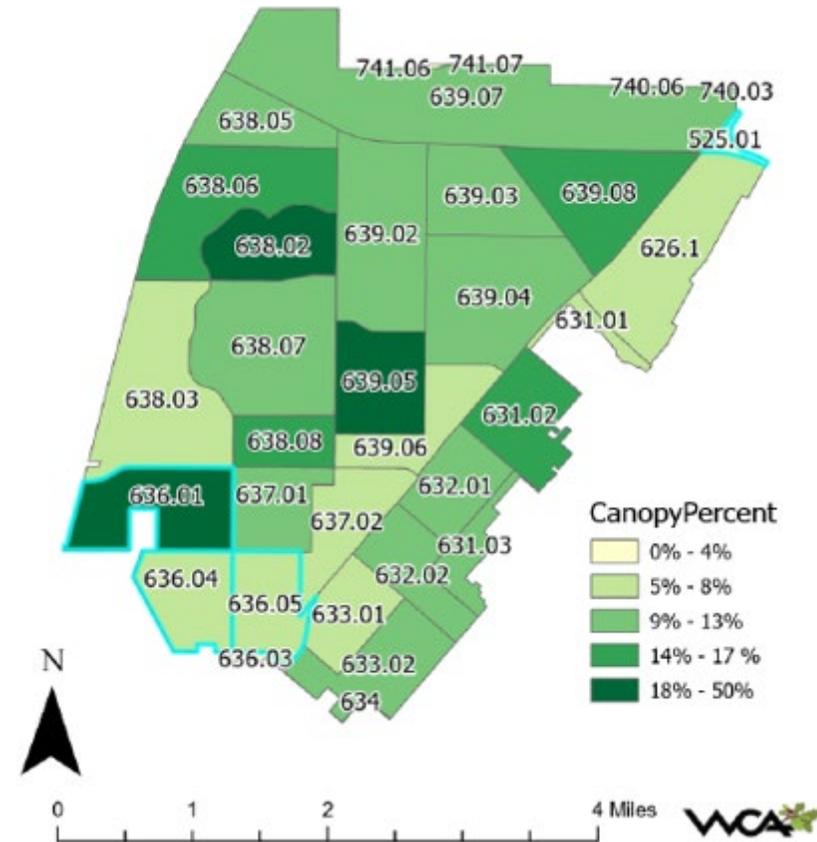
District 4 is the smallest district by area and thus presents less opportunity for canopy expansion.



District	Canopy (Sqft)	Suitable (Sqft)	Unsuitable (Sqft)	Total Area (Sqft)
1	18,789,743.95	6,400,041.64	51,731,990.22	115,026,391.30
2	12,009,395.78	5,790,041.72	33,642,265.02	93,479,583.35
3	9,802,908.63	5,237,125.25	27,502,277.33	75,596,229.03
4	3,464,911.76	861,709.18	10,990,825.62	25,574,421.83
5	9,770,084.24	2,475,327.11	41,432,486.49	76,767,708.46
6	7,475,158.18	4,132,294.40	27,411,033.16	55,405,142.28

# Census Tracts

- Canopy cover across Costa Mesa's Census Tracts ranged from 3.6% to 24.26%
- Suitable planting opportunities varied from 1.38% to 23.7%.
- The most promising tracts for expansion include Tract 525.01, due to its high percentage of suitable space.
- Tracts with lower canopy and available area, such as 636.04 and 636.05, may require alternative strategies for greening efforts.
  - Prioritize maintenance and tree health to preserve existing canopy.
  - Select the largest appropriate species tree when trees must be replaced.
  - Avoid undersized ornamental trees where a larger tree can successfully mature.



# How Costa Mesa's Trees Benefit the Community



## Pollution Removal

**12.61 tons/year (\$173 thousand/year)**

This value represents the amount of air pollutants that trees remove from the atmosphere through leaf surfaces. Common pollutants include ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>). By intercepting these pollutants, trees help improve air quality and support public health.



## Carbon Storage

**12.85 thousand tons (\$5.56 million)**

Carbon storage refers to the total amount of carbon currently held within a tree's biomass—its trunk, branches, leaves, and roots. As trees grow, they absorb carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere and store it as carbon in their tissue, helping to offset greenhouse gas emissions.



## Carbon Sequestration

**556.9 tons (\$241 thousand/year)**

This is the rate at which trees absorb and store carbon from the atmosphere each year. Unlike carbon storage, which is a cumulative total, carbon sequestration is an annual measurement that reflects the ongoing environmental service of reducing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels.



## Avoided Runoff

**2.327 million gallon/year (\$20.8 thousand/year)**

Avoided runoff quantifies the volume of stormwater that is intercepted or absorbed by trees, preventing it from flowing directly into storm drains or local waterways. Trees reduce surface runoff by capturing rainfall on their leaves and branches and by increasing soil infiltration through their root systems.



## Oxygen Production

**1.485 thousand tons/year**

Oxygen production measures the amount of oxygen generated by trees during photosynthesis. As trees convert carbon dioxide and water into glucose, they release oxygen as a byproduct. This natural process is essential for maintaining breathable air and supporting life on Earth.



# Tree Species Composition

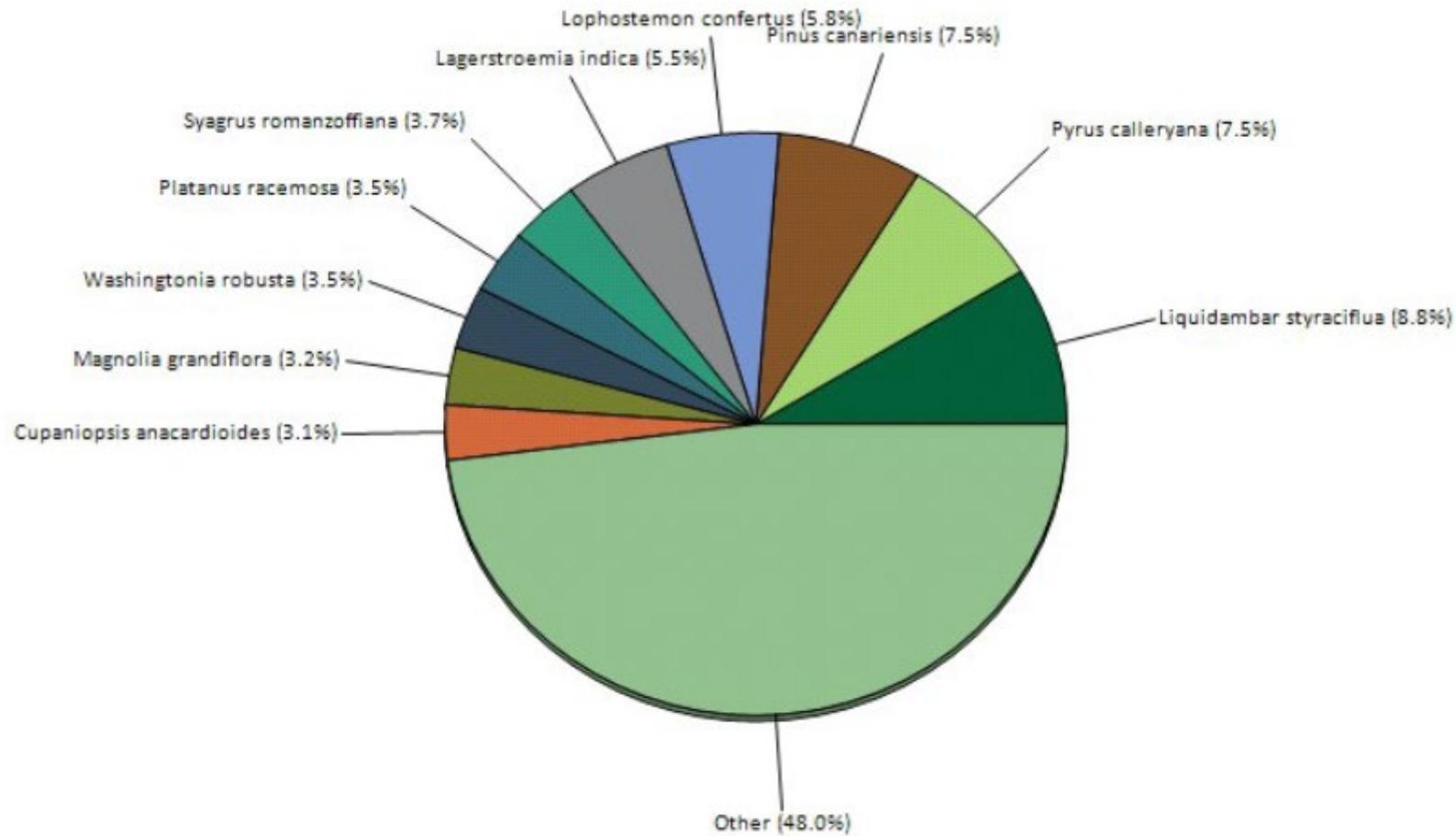


Figure 4.2a. Tree species composition in City of Costa Mesa

# Tree Characteristics (Percent of Tree Population by Diameter)

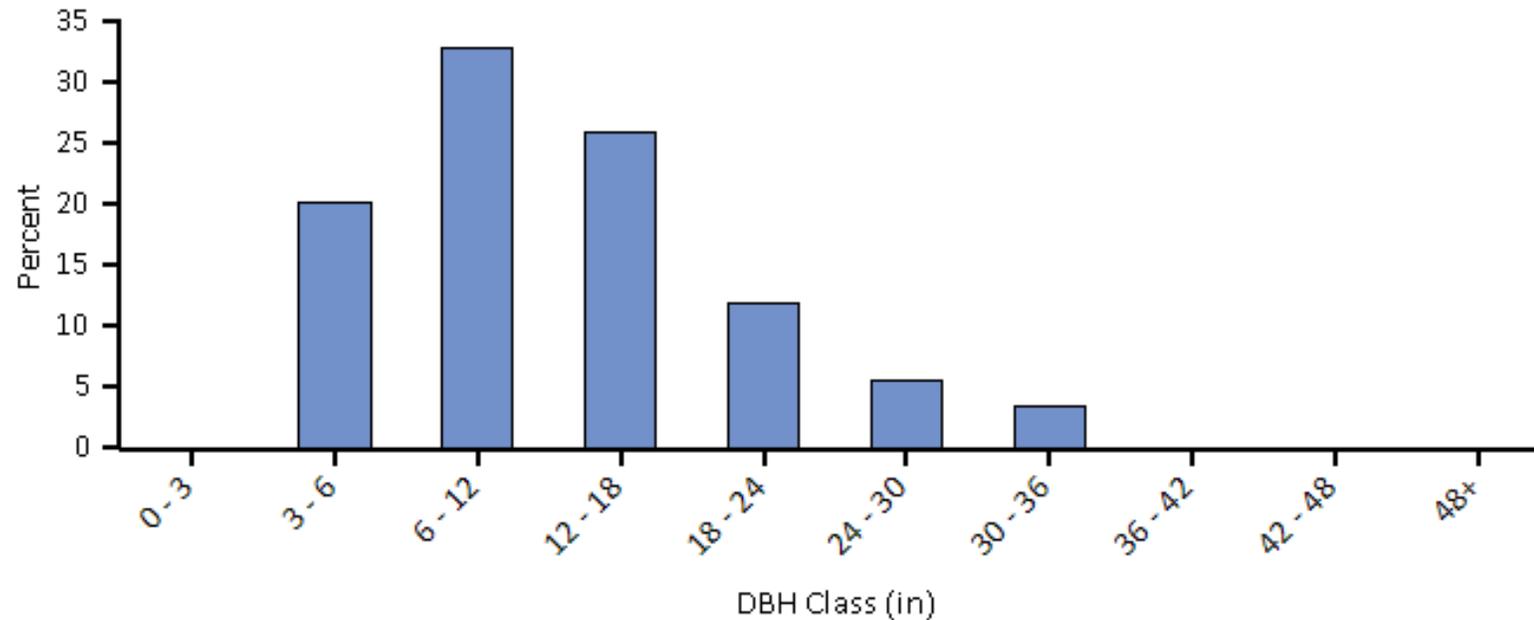


Figure 3. Percent of tree population by diameter class (DBH - stem diameter at 4.5 feet)

# Urban Forest Composition and Risk Assessment

In City of Costa Mesa, the most dominant species in terms of leaf area are *Pinus canariensis*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, and *Platanus racemosa*. The 10 species with the greatest importance values are listed in Table 1. Importance values (IV) are calculated as the sum of percent population and percent leaf area. High importance values do not mean that these trees should necessarily be encouraged in the future; rather these species currently dominate the urban forest structure.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Percent Population	Percent Leaf Area	IV
<i>Pinus canariensis</i>	Canary island pine	7.5	14.8	22.3
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum	8.8	8.7	17.5
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery pear	7.5	5.2	12.7
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Vinegartree	5.8	4.7	10.5
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	California sycamore	3.5	6.1	9.6
<i>Fraxinus uhdei</i>	Shamel ash	2.4	4.7	7.1
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Mexican fan palm	3.5	3.4	6.9
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Common crapemyrtle	5.5	0.9	6.4
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Carrotwood	3.1	2.7	5.7
<i>Corymbia citriodora</i>	Lemonscented gum	1.2	4.5	5.6

# Where Canopy is Lacking

## Canopy is lacking in:

- Districts 2, District 5, and District 6 with canopy coverage between 12.73% - 13.49%
- Census Tract 637.01 and 626.01 shows the lowest canopy percentages citywide, ranging from 9.8% - 11.7%.
- High residential and commercial corridors along Harbor Blvd., Bristol St., and the South Coast Plaza area are short on planting areas.
  - These areas contain impervious surfaces, minimal public green space and limited planting within private parcels.



# Where the Most Opportunity Lies

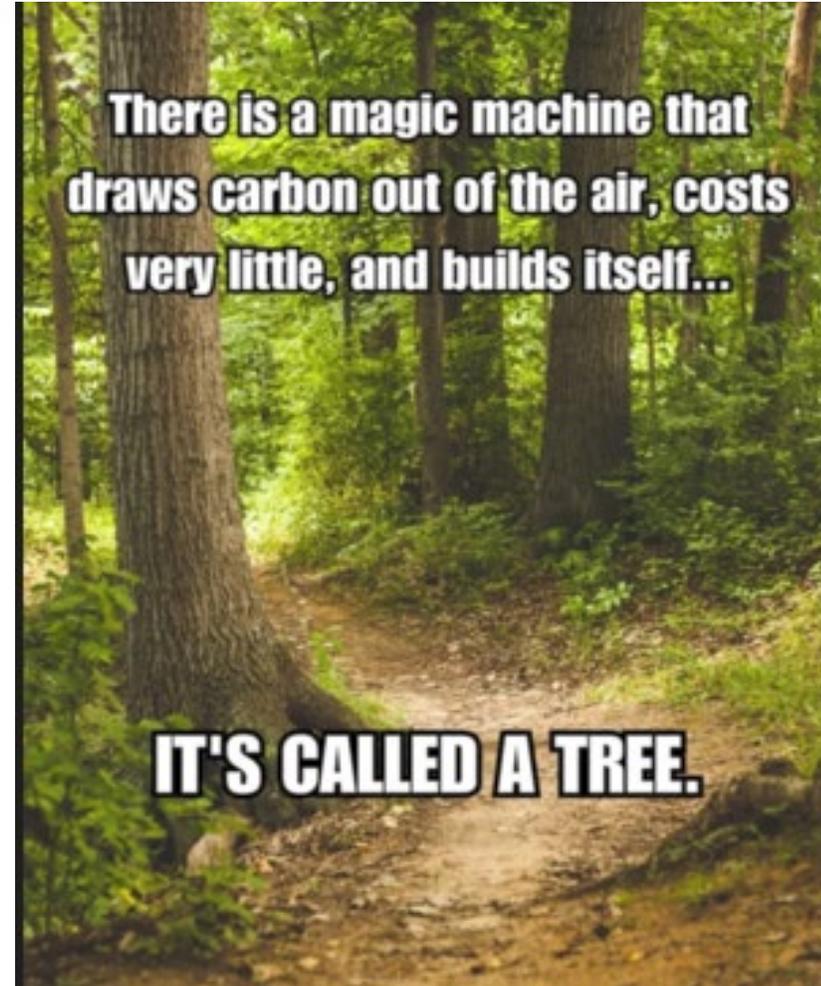
The most suitable areas for new tree planting are found in:

- District 3 at 6.93% and District 6 at 7.46%.
- Parks
  - TeWinkle Park – 270,000 sq. ft. plantable area
  - Wakeham Park – 177,000 sq. ft. plantable area
  - These spaces feature existing soil making them ideal for canopy expansion.



# Areas Most in Need of Protection Vs. Expansion

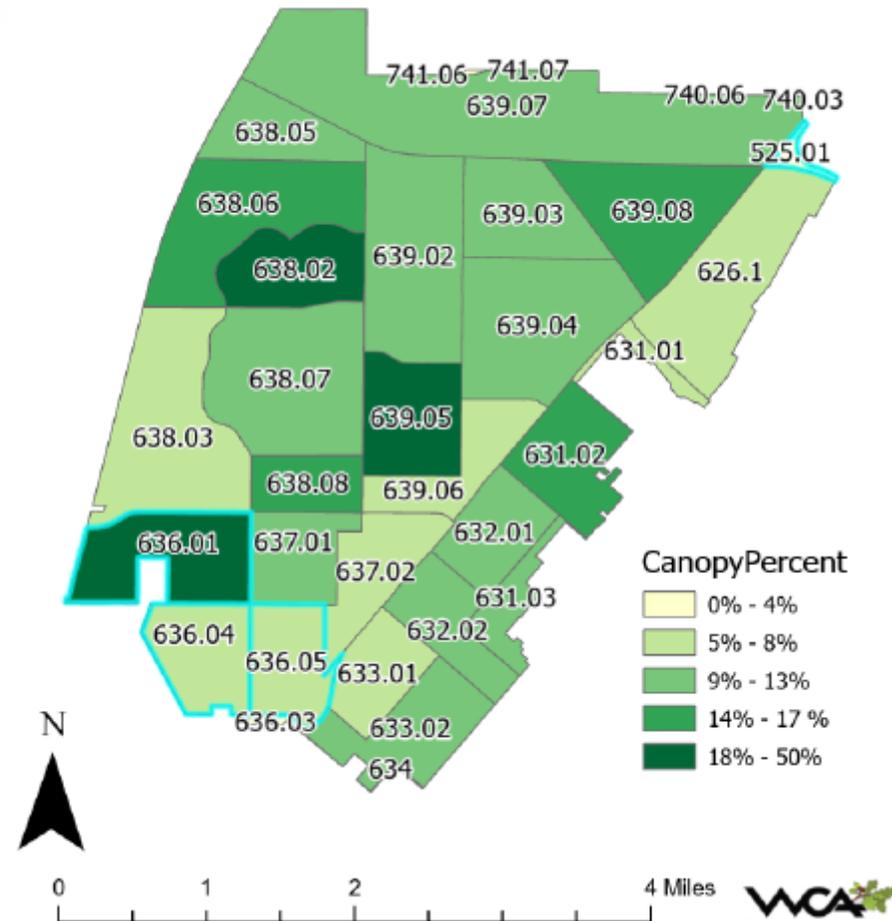
- Protection:
  - Eastside Costa Mesa and parts of District 1 contain large residential lots with existing mature tree canopy of up to 16.34%.
- Expansion
  - Commercial zones with only 8.63% canopy and school properties averaging less than 8% coverage require expansion efforts.
  - FDC contain large pervious surfaces with poor canopy coverage.



# General Citywide Trends

Canopy coverage is unevenly distributed:

- Favors low-density residential areas with 23.83% canopy coverage.
- Underserves high-density residential (15.77%) and commercial (6.73%) zones.
- Large parcels such as Talbert Regional Park, Fairview Park, and the Costa Mesa Golf Course contain extensive canopy and open space but offer limited benefit to street-level urban canopy goals.
- Census Tracts 638.03 and 639.02 show a combination of low existing canopy and high planting suitability.



# Parks and Community Services Commission

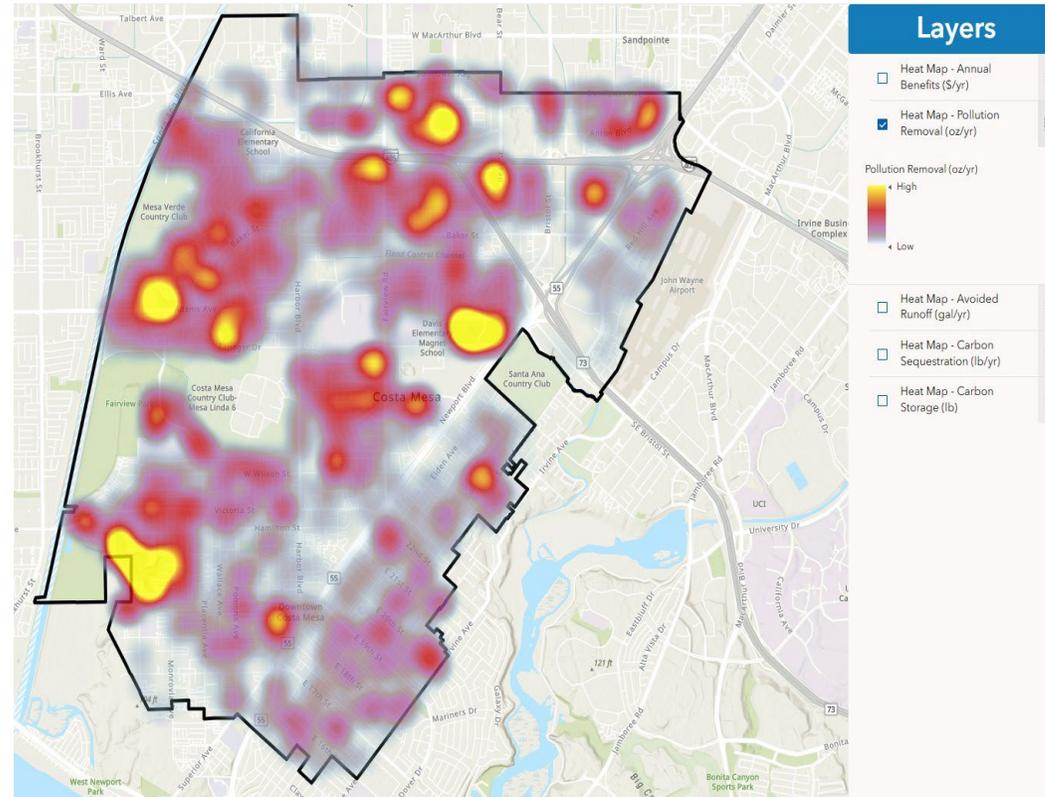
- Include a mapping of tree inventory so that the relationship of tree canopy to pedestrian opportunity zones, major roadway corridors and tree-deficient areas can be analyzed.
- Collaborate with Newport Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) to increase tree canopy at various school properties, especially in areas that are lacking adequate canopy cover.
- Collaborate with other districts such as Mesa Water for tree planting efforts.
- Increase mulching activities in landscaped areas throughout the City.
- Dedicate a portion of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget for streets towards trees.
- Repurpose a portion of golf course adjacent to Fairview Developmental Center (FDC) for increasing open space and tree canopy.
- Conduct outreach to residents, especially in multi-family areas for additional tree planting and provide incentives for planting trees.
- Address tree canopy and social equity issues.
- Consider an Adopt a Tree program for planting and maintenance of trees.
- Identify and promote health benefits of trees, especially in areas deficient in tree canopy.
- Identify areas where trees were removed and ensure new trees are planted.
- Incorporate tree canopy recommendations within Safe Routes to School project.
- Prioritize areas with poor tree canopy and low unsuitable planting.
- Provide Planning Commission with the presentation on tree canopy.

# City of Costa Mesa Tree Benefits Website

Staff is currently working with the consultant on the development of the City's Tree Benefits Website.

- Prune Schedule Map
- Information on Tree Inventory and Canopy Coverage
- Tree Benefits Dashboard
- Tree Canopy Cover Map
- Tree Benefits Heat Map
- Links to other helpful tree related sites.

<https://costamesa-urbanforest.wca.app>



# Next Steps

## Protect existing tree canopy

- High yet reasonable standards for removals.
- Enforce tree protection standards for construction projects.
- Provide appropriate maintenance levels and pest monitoring of existing trees.

## Tree planting

- Prioritize areas that are deficient.
- Prioritize locations that can support larger, longer-lived trees.
- Select the right tree in the right place.
- Focus on proper maintenance of newly planted trees.
- Encourage the planting of trees on private property.





# Training Requirements for Elected and Appointed Officials

City Council Meeting

February 17, 2026



# BACKGROUND

- Since 2005, California law has required ethics training for elected and appointed officials who are members of legislative bodies
- Required ethics training must cover:
  - Financial gain and conflicts of interest
  - Prerequisites of office and use of public funds
  - Government transparency
  - Fair process requirements

# SB 827 – CHANGES TO TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- Expands which officials must complete ethics training
- Shortens the deadline for initial training
- Requires fiscal and financial administration training
- Creates new recordkeeping and website posting requirements

# ETHICS TRAINING – REQUIRED OFFICIALS

- Under existing law, officials who receive compensation, including salary, stipends, or reimbursement must complete ethics training
- SB 827 also requires training for department heads and other officials designated by the City Council

# ETHICS TRAINING – DEADLINES

- Officials serving before January 1, 2026:
  - Within **one year** of assuming office
  - Every two years thereafter
- Officials assuming office on or after January 1, 2026:
  - Within **six months** of assuming office
  - Every two years thereafter



# FISCAL AND FINANCIAL TRAINING – TOPICS

- SB 827 establishes new training requirements covering:
  - Financial administration, management, policies, reporting, and auditing
  - Municipal budgets and budget processes
  - Capital financing, debt management, revenues, pensions and other post-employment benefits, and investments
  - General fiscal and financial planning principles and laws relevant to an official's role in overseeing agency operations, procurement, and contracting practices



# FISCAL AND FINANCIAL TRAINING – REQUIRED OFFICIALS

- Elected officials
- Department heads
- Officials who, as part of their official duties, make decisions or recommendations regarding financial administration, budgeting, or use of public resources
  - In essence, all Commissions and Committee, as well as Department Heads, Senior Staff, Budget Officers and Management Analysts likely to be covered

# FISCAL AND FINANCIAL TRAINING – DEADLINES

- Officials serving as of January 1, 2026:
  - Must complete by **January 1, 2028**, unless no longer in office as of that date
- Officials assuming office on or after January 1, 2026:
  - Must complete within **six months** of assuming office
- Thereafter, training must be completed at least once every two years
- Certain licensed financial professionals in good standing may be exempt

# RECORDKEEPING AND WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS

- The City must maintain records of compliance with ethics and fiscal training requirements for at least five years
- Beginning January 1, 2026, the City must also post clear instructions and contact information on its website for requesting training records



# SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION TRAINING

## SB 1343

- Required every two years
- Elected and appointed officials who oversee or provide direction to staff must complete **two hours** of training
- Non-supervisory employees must complete at least **one hour** of training

# SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION TRAINING – TOPICS

- Federal and state laws prohibiting sexual harassment
- Remedies available to victims
- Practical examples aimed at instructing supervisors in the prevention of harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and abusive conduct
- Prevention of harassment based on gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation

# IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- The City Attorney's Office will work with the City Clerk to:
  - Conduct required interactive training to ensure statutory compliance
  - Implement the new retention and posting requirements
  - Provide City Council with a list of designated officials and employees required to obtain the new fiscal and financial administration training
- The League of California Cities offers ethics training at its annual conference
- Sexual harassment prevention training is also available on the Department of Fair Employment and Housing website



# Updated Training Requirements



# QUESTIONS?