

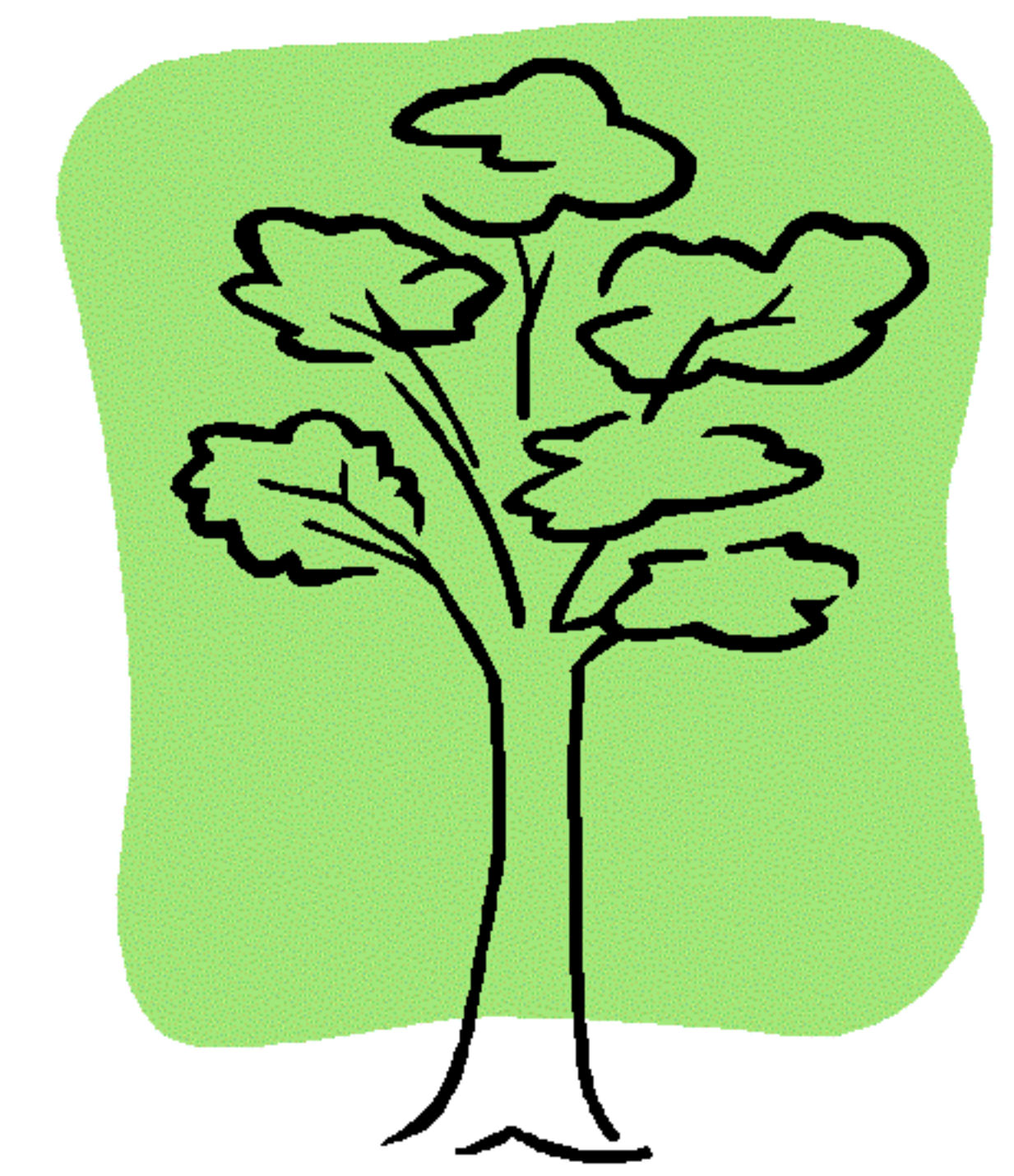


*Right-of-Way
Tree
Maintenance*



Department of Public Works

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City of La Mesa
Department of Public Works

Right-of-Way Tree Maintenance

Along with being responsible for the maintenance of public parks and traffic island landscape, the Park Maintenance Division of the Public Works Department is also responsible for the maintenance of over 8,156 trees planted throughout the City including the public rights-of-way. This maintenance includes scheduled and emergency tree trimming and removal.

Removal Of Existing Trees:

Removal of existing trees is caused by many factors including death of the tree, hazardous conditions and damage to surrounding improvements including sidewalks, curb and gutter and pavement. This work is done by the City or a duly authorized agent. Removal by others is permitted only with the approval of the Director of Public Works and a street encroachment permit. (Tree Policy Manual Section 6)

Replacement of Removed Trees:

Selection of the correct tree for a specific location is extremely important. The wrong tree would not grow properly and may cause damage to infrastructure. Removed trees are replaced following several guidelines such as adequate space for planting, clear traffic sight lines and locations of existing utilities. Replacement trees are selected from an approved tree list. Once the location is decided, the selected tree is planted by City crews or authorized agents. The list of approved trees and the method of planting may change over time due to changing standards and practices.

Care and Maintenance after Replacement:

Due to staffing and funding limitations, adjacent property owners are required to provide water for the tree and periodic weeding. The city will be responsible for pruning of the tree. Due to many environmental factors including soil type, weather factors and tree type, an exact watering schedule is difficult to determine. As a general practice, the application of 5 to 10 gallons of water per week for the first year is sufficient to establish most trees. The water may be applied with a hose, bucket or irrigation system. Typically this watering can be cut back after the first year.

Trimming of Existing Trees:

Trimming of trees located in the right-of-way is the responsibility of the Department of Public Works and is done by maintenance zone approximately every seven years. Trimming is done to maintain a proper growth structure to the trees. This trimming consists of raising trees to 12 foot over streets, seven feet over sidewalks and thinning. Emergency trimming is done on a case by case basis and is done primarily due to hazardous conditions and blocked visibility.

It is the City of La Mesa's practice to establish, keep and maintain a viable urban forest in its community. This practice is supported with the planting of new vegetation in the right-of-way, parks and green belts within its borders using guidelines for drought and disease tolerance, appropriate plantings in proper places and current industry standards.

For Further Information:

You may contact the Public Works Department at 619-667-1450 or the Park Maintenance Supervisor at 619-667-1476 with any questions or concerns.