



VPCA TREE POLICY

Adopted March 24, 2011, Revised February 25, 2016, Revised April 27, 2017

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Realizing the aesthetic, economic and environmental value that trees bring to our community, a policy is established by the VPCA Board of Directors to maintain, preserve, and enhance the appearance and quality of VPCA trees.

1. The VPCA Manager shall provide new members of the Board of Directors and of the Greenbelt Committee with a copy of this policy.
2. The Greenbelt Committee, working with management, the landscape contractor, and as appropriate, a qualified arborist, shall monitor the trees in VPCA and be the principal party for administering the VPCA Tree Policy.
3. Tree maintenance will be budgeted for annually to include tree trimming, tree removal and replacement, arborist fees, and replacement of plantings damaged during tree trimming.
4. Board approval shall not be required for unscheduled tree trimming.
5. No person shall plant a tree on VPCA property without written approval of the Board of Directors.
6. Trees to be planted on VPCA property will be selected from a list compiled by the Greenbelt Committee and Landscape Supervisor from acknowledged horticultural sources including the Southern California Street Tree Guide, and other local authorities, with appropriate consideration for size of mature trees, maintenance costs and previous experience within the association.
7. In general, the following existing conditions will be considered cause for tree removal, root pruning, root barriers, branch pruning, thinning, or crowning:
 - 7.1. Trees whose root structure is damaging or is considered hazardous to homes and/or other structures.
 - 7.2. Trees whose branches or trunks rest on, rub on, or overhang homes, damaging or are likely to damage those homes in the near future.
 - 7.3. Trees damaged or leaning to such a degree that they are unstable and that saving them is neither practical nor feasible.
 - 7.4. Trees in groves that are so crowded that they have sparse foliage and a stretched height appearance to obtain sunlight.
 - 7.5. Trees that are so unsuited to their location that control and maintenance costs are likely to become prohibitive in the future. These trees shall be replaced with suitable ones.
 - 7.6. Failure to thrive.

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8. VPCA Management will submit tree removal recommendations, along with any recommendations by the Greenbelt Committee or consulting arborists, to the Board of Directors for review, and the Board of Directors will render the final decision.
 - 8.1. No person shall remove or alter, in any manner, a tree under VPCA management or on VPCA property, except in the case of an emergency. An emergency is defined as constituting an immediate danger to life or property.
 - 8.2. If a certified arborist recommends that a tree be trimmed or removed for imminent safety concerns, the manager shall act as soon as reasonably possible to have the recommendation implemented. Afterwards, the manager shall report on his actions to the Greenbelt Committee and the Board.

Trees will not be removed for concerns about falling leaves, pine needles, etc. VPCA will take all steps possible to preserve a tree rather than remove it.