

THE CITY'S URBAN FORESTERS, COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC), AND OTHER CONCERNED CITIZENS JOINED TOGETHER IN 2004 TO DRAFT A NEW ORDINANCE TO STRENGTHEN THE PROTECTION OF OAK AND INCLUDE OTHER NATIVE TREE SPECIES. THE NEW ORDINANCE WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PROTECTIONS:



- Protected trees: all native Oak species, Black Walnut, California Bay, and California Sycamore.
- Trees 4" in diameter or greater at 4.5' above ground level are considered trees. Multi-trunk trees diameter is determined by cumulative size of all trunks.
- A tree removal permit for protected trees on any size property is required from the Board of Public Works.
- Tree replacement mitigation will be calculated by Arboriculture profession best management practice.
- Trees from seedling size to large box trees may be utilized as mitigation dependent on the best chance of survival for a given project.
- Withholding of a permit to build on a property for up to ten years may also be included in penalties for illegal tree removal.



**BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES
URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION**

The Department of Public Works, Bureau of Street Services, Urban Forestry Division is responsible for oversight of the protected tree ordinance.

All applications for removal shall be submitted to the **Urban Forestry Division.**

Applications may be submitted online, by telephone at (213) 847-3077, contacting 311, or in person at 1149 S. Broadway Street Los Angeles, 90015.

Los Angeles' native trees are perhaps the City's most valuable natural resource. The City is dedicated and committed to preserving and protecting this resource. To do this requires the assistance of Los Angeles' citizens.

The City thanks all of you in advance for complying with this ordinance and sharing in the gratitude of the preserved trees.



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City of Los Angeles / Department of Public Works
BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES/ URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION
1149 South Broadway, Ste., 4th floor Los Angeles, California 90015



City of Los Angeles



Department of Public Works
BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES



The City of Los Angeles is home to one of the nation's largest urban forests.

In recognition of the aesthetic, environmental, ecological and economic benefits and the historical legacy that native trees provide the community, the City of Los Angeles has adopted the Native Tree Protection Ordinance, which will protect several of our most common native trees.



It is estimated that there are nearly twelve million trees within the city limits. Los Angeles' urban forest exists largely due to intensive tree planting starting as far back as the Pueblo de Los Angeles founding. Native trees are a significant component of this vast urban forest. The most prevalent native trees are the Oaks (*Quercus* spp.), Western Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*) and California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica*). The dominant native species is the Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*).

Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) is long-lived, grows both single and multi-trunked, obtains 60 feet in height and usually grows in groups. The **Valley Oak** (*Quercus lobata*) is an extremely large and long-lived tree. The tree is deciduous, can reach heights of one hundred feet and have a one hundred foot canopy. They are tolerant of droughts and continued dry conditions. These two oak species are predominant but all oak species are protected except Scrub Oak.



Quercus agrifolia
Coast Live Oak



Juglans californica
California Black Walnut



Quercus lobata
Valley Oak



Platanus racemosa
Western Sycamore



Umbellularia californica
California Bay

California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica*) is usually multi-trunk, deciduous, and most often does not reach a height of more than 25 feet. Their fruit was utilized by both native Indians and wildlife. The **Western Sycamore** (*Platanus racemosa*) is a very large tree that may reach heights of one hundred feet in ideal conditions. Typically, the Western Sycamore is single trunk but often grows with bends and twists. They may survive on little moisture. The **California Bay** (*Umbellularia californica*) is usually single trunk, may reach heights of seventy-five feet, and cover large areas. They have edible fruit and are evergreen.

As the City of Los Angeles grew, development began to encroach on the ecosystem of native tree species. Additionally, these trees grow in idyllic areas where people prefer to live and build homes further increasing the chances of their removal. No accurate estimates of early tree populations are available but there is no question that all of these species have been significantly reduced in number since the settlement of the Los Angeles area.

In the early 1980's, the City of Los Angeles adopted an ordinance to protect the native Oak tree species. It has been successful in reducing the number of tree removals but the decline of these trees continues.

