La Junta Downtown Street Tree Inventory

Report to La Junta Urban Renewal Authority
July 14th, 2011
La Junta Downtown Street Tree Inventory 2011

Tree Diversity

- Elm, American
- Elm, Siberian
- Kentucky Coffee Tree
- Cherry, Canda Red
- Tree-of-Heaven
- Honeylocust
- Ash, Green
- Plum
- Pear, Bradford
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Tree Condition

- excellent: 7
- good: 32
- fair: 16
- poor: 2
- very poor: 0
- dead: 0
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*Management Needs Applicable to All Trees*
- Removal of tree grates
- Rotational Pruning

*Immediate Management Needs*

- Remove
- Prune or Remove Hazardous Tree
- Prune for Clearance/Prune defective limb(s)
- Rotational Prune
- Water/Fertilize/Aerate
- Stake or Protect
- Treat for Insects
- Sample for disease
- OK-do nothing
- Remove-do not replace
- Replace existing tree

**Note:** The chart shows the number of trees requiring each type of management action.
Planting Spaces Available = 49

EXISTING Planting Space Available

Planting Space Available if cement removed

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Summary Comments/Suggestions

Immediate Direct Actions

• Remove Tree Grates
  tree grates:
  o create a tripping hazard
  o girdle tree trunks
  o compromise the structure of the tree by damaging the root flare

• Rotational Prune All Trees
  o Create a bi-annual rotational pruning schedule; prune each tree every other year
  o Prune for structure, clearance, dead/diseased
  o However, correct pruning practices are a MUST!!
  o Consult with CSFS on proper pruning practices
  o Train specific individuals and assign them to be responsible for pruning
Immediate Direct Actions...continued

- Plant trees in available planting spaces

- For existing trees that need removed, REPLACE them with another tree
General Guidelines for Selecting and Planting Street Trees

• Select appropriate species for the site
• Trees need space for the root flare/root system
• Generally, a 4’x4’ space is adequate for small maturing trees
• However, if more space is available, planting a larger maturing tree can be appropriate as well
• Consider visual clearance at intersections
• Consider interference with utilities: underground/overhead/gas meters, etc.
• Consider things like light poles
• Must work with City Engineer to make sure all codes are met
Considerations for Space Expansion of an Existing Tree or Removing Cement to Plant a New Tree

• Make sure ADA (and other engineering codes/standards can still be met)
• Expanding a tree space is probably cheaper than removing the tree and replacing with cement
• For a small maturing tree, a 4’x4’ space is strongly recommended
• For a large maturing tree, a 6’x6’ space is strongly recommended
• However, the spaces do not have to be “square”
• For example, for an existing tree that would benefit from space expansion, evaluate the horizontal potential for expansion as well as vertical—a “rectangle” might work just as well
Summary Comments/Suggestions

Planning for Successful, Long-term Sidewalk Planting

- All parties involved agree that street trees are an important asset to the Town (local government, businesses, citizens)
- Selected trees will fit in the horizontal and vertical available space AT MATURITY
- Selected trees will tolerate the harsh growing conditions (radiant heat, minimal watering)
- Trees will be planted in a spot that will allow them to be an asset and thrive
- Develop a simple maintenance plan that is easily implemented (e.g. rotational pruning, supplemental watering, mulching). The tree board can play critical role in developing and implementing this maintenance plan
- Have a short term goal of replacing trees and planting in available spaces
- Have a long term goal of planning for increasing the number of street trees