



CITY OF BURBANK
Parks and Recreation Department
Administration
150 N. Third Street, Burbank, CA 91502
www.burbankca.gov

August 21, 2023

Dear Resident/Business Owner,

Last month the City of Burbank Parks and Recreation Department sent notifications regarding a Reforestation Strategy, that includes the removal of Aleppo Pine trees, only to residents with affected trees adjacent to their properties. We understand that trees are valued by entire neighborhoods and we regret that not all residents on the block were similarly made aware of the removals. We apologize for the omission.

The City prides itself on its urban forest and is committed to responsibly managing all 33,000 of our city trees. Maintaining a healthy and thriving tree forest that can sustain changes in climate, while continuing to provide aesthetic and functional value to the community are City priorities. Unfortunately, in our careful consideration of many factors even with the above priorities, sometimes the removal of mature trees becomes necessary. That decision is never easy.

Mature Aleppo Pine trees have been a beautiful and beloved part of our community for many decades, and we understand that these trees provide a great amount of shade, a habitat for wildlife, and benefit the environment. However, to proactively maintain a resilient urban forest, the City's arboriculture experts determined that 121 Aleppo Pine trees citywide have reached their mature life, and there is now greater value in replanting new trees as there are no alternative solutions. Over time we have also learned that this tree species is no longer optimal and has outgrown our residential neighborhoods. In addition, the Aleppo Pine trees have been impacted by our historic drought, and the recent losses during heavy storms highlight their incompatibility with their existing locations.

As we embark on this necessary change, replacement trees will be more resilient, will better compliment the spaces that house them, and will offer wide-ranging benefits including: cleaner air, energy efficiency, stormwater management, temperature regulation, noise reduction, and habitat for local wildlife. The City plans to replace the Aleppo Pine trees with as large of a tree as possible to maximize future success, which may vary depending on the available parkway space at each location. Replacement trees will be at no cost to residents. Additionally, the City will plant new trees in currently vacant parkways, resulting in more city trees planted in your neighborhood.

You are receiving this letter because the City has identified one Aleppo Pine tree on your block to be strategically removed and replaced. Please note that all other parkway trees will remain. The City is committed to engaging the community and reporting back to the City Council prior to the implementation of this plan. In an effort to maintain our residents well informed of this Reforestation Strategy, information including the list of trees to be removed, the removal schedule (once determined), upcoming community meetings, and the City Council meeting (once scheduled) can be found at www.BurbankCA.gov/CityReforestation. For questions, you can email ParksandRec@Burbankca.gov.

Further, there will be meetings to learn more about the City's Reforestation Strategy.

- Parks and Recreation Board Meeting – Thursday, September 14 at 6pm, City Council Chambers, 275 E. Olive Avenue
- Sustainable Burbank Commission Meeting – Monday, September 18 at 5pm, Community Services Building, 150 N. Third Street - Community Room 104
- Community Workshop(s) – To be determined

As proud stewards of Burbank's diverse urban forest of over 33,000 trees, we remain dedicated to its health and longevity for present and future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,



Marisa Garcia
Parks and Recreation Director