



Parks & Recreation Department  
Urban Forestry Division

### Street Tree Planting Program

The City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department has a Street Tree Urban Forestry Planting Program to help line our city streets and green our community. Trees create wildlife habitat, reduce noise and particulates, infiltrate stormwater, raise property values and help address climate change.

The City offers **FREE** 15 gallon size street trees from the City approved Street Tree List for your sidewalk planting strip (located between the City sidewalk and the curb) or your front yard **to be planted within 5 feet of the sidewalk**. Free trees must be planted in the planting strip or within 5 feet of the public sidewalk and not in greater front yard or rear yard areas.

The purpose of the Free Street Tree Program is to shade and green public streets and sidewalks. Upon receiving your new tree, the City may be able to assist with street tree installation upon request if you cannot plant your tree; however, our Urban Forestry staff resources are limited.

Please note that under Title 13.30 - Street Trees and Title 15.20 - Driveways and Sidewalks in the Municipal Code, street trees and trees planted near the public sidewalk are the property owner's responsibility to maintain. Sidewalk maintenance and repair is also the owner's responsibility which is a City-adopted State Law.

Tree planting requirements listed below are to prevent hazards and lessen utility damage:

- 25 feet from an intersection or street corner

- 5 feet from a driveway apron

- 5 feet from water and gas lines

- 5 feet from a fire hydrant

- 10 feet from a clay sewer pipe and 8 feet from an ABS sewer lateral

If you have specific questions about the trees, please contact the Urban Forester Leslie Keedy at 831 420-5246 or email [keedy@santacruzca.gov](mailto:keedy@santacruzca.gov)