

Sept 22, 2024

Dear Members of the Climate Change Sub-Committee:

Three years ago, I purchased a home in the Luther Burbank Garden District and was shocked to find that the “City of Trees” has a serious tree canopy problem including:

- The lack of a health equitable tree canopy!
- The lack of a city tree program,
- The absence of city-community organization partnership,
- Many old, sick trees,
- Trees being cut down, right and left, with no consequences,
- Many empty tree wells – even right outside City Hall,
- New/replacement trees were hard to find,
- No one at the city to call about its trees!

I was even more dismayed to discover that the City of Santa Rosa, unlike many cities in California, did not apply, and thus was not awarded, Inflation Reduction Act tree funds. I was beside myself to discover that the City of Santa Rosa, not only did not apply for these funds but did not even know about these funds, despite the news of the availability of these funds being widely disseminated.

I am cautiously happy to hear that the Climate Change Sub-Committee will be discussing trees at the October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 meeting. I would hope that the Committee is aware of the scientific evidence on the ecological and public health benefits of trees. Surely you must know that the clock is ticking and thus we must be working to mitigate the effects of climate change now, most specifically addressing increasing heat and the uneven rains. Trees are one of the few things that we can do relatively easy and inexpensively to address the effects of a changing climate plus mitigate the impact of urban pollution and noise, and to create more healthy communities.

I am writing to tell the Committee that it has no choice but to make tree canopy a priority across all city departments which means:

1. Task staff to seek out funding for tree canopy;
2. Implement and enforce policies regarding the cutting of all trees;
3. Implement public notification requirements of trees being removal so the public can weigh in, endure that the removals are necessary, and to create a value toward trees and to help the public understand the importance of eliminating trees, especially mature trees;
4. Require trees to be planted at a minimum of every 25 feet along sidewalks and bike lanes;
5. Require any tree being removed to be replaced within 60 days;

6. Require every home to contribute to sidewalk tree canopy; Permits for other home renovations cannot be signed off on unless there is the presence of a street tree.
7. Require all public works projects to include the addition of trees;
8. Make sidewalk cutting for trees same day/over the counter permitting or eliminate permitting all together;
9. Provide residents a fee for service by DPW to cut tree wells when requested by residents,
10. Implement significant fines to tree service companies that violate policies;
11. Plant in open areas, along major transit corridors, in school yards, etc large native trees; these trees are likely to be able to sustain the future's climate changes;
12. Create a program to help homeowners repair sidewalks possibility damaged by trees and to cut tree wells bigger. Relatedly, remove the extra cement, bricks, asphalt installed to covered open curbs which would result in increasing the city's permeable surfaces,
13. Hire an arborist to do a city-wide tree canopy assessment to examine the health of the city's tree canopy and to identify canopy inequities.
14. Task the city with implementing a Free Tree Giveaway. I personally will provide funding for such a program.

The list above is not complete nor are these ideas new. These approaches are currently being employed by many cities in California. The City of Santa Rosa can look to Petaluma, a city a fraction of the size, who is many years ahead of Santa Rosa in understanding the importance of its tree canopy in mitigating climate change.

I have included a Climate Forward Tree list that was completed for Santa Rosa in 2022 by the Master Gardeners, although no one seems to know about this list. I have provided this list to Tim Finnegan, Parks Dept, for review. Please forward to others who may be working with trees in their city work.

In summary, The City of Santa Rosa needs to prioritize tree canopy, task staff with identifying and applying for funding, and work to get a functional and progressive Tree Program ASAP. I completely support the Climate Change Subcommittee FINALLY putting tree canopy on its agenda and hope it moves forward with an extensive tree program.

Beth Brown  
Founder of Santa Rosa Releaf  
[Brownbann123@gmail.com](mailto:Brownbann123@gmail.com)  
415-517-9359

City Of Santa Rosa Climate Forward Tree List

Species	Common Name	Mature Size (Height x Width)	Damage Resilience	Temperature Tolerance	Drought Tolerance	Pest Resistance	Native	Nuisance Factor	Maintenance Required	Habitat Friendly
<i>Aesculus californica</i>	California buckeye	M: 15'-40' x 20'-40'	4	6	6	6	4	1	1	3
<i>Arbutus 'Marina'</i>	Marina strawberry tree	M: 30'-50' x 30'-40'	6	4	6	4	0	2	2	2
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry tree	S: 8'-20' x 8'-20'	6	6	6	4	0	2	2	2
<i>Arctostaphylos manzanita 'Dr. Hurd'</i>	Dr. Hurd manzanita	S: 12'-16' x 10'-15'	6	6	6	4	6	2	2	3
<i>Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'</i>	Ray Hartman ceanothus	S: 20' x 15'-20'	4	6	6	4	6	3	2	3
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western redbud	S: 10'-20' x 10'-20'	4	6	6	4	6	3	3	3
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	Desert willow	S: 15'-25' x 10'-20'	4	6	6	6	4	3	3	2
<i>Diospyros kaki</i>	Persimmon	S: 20'-30' x 20'-30'	2	6	6	6	0	2	2	2
<i>Fraxinus dipetala</i>	California ash	S: 25' x 20'	4	6	6	4	4	2	2	2
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Australian willow	M: 30' x 20'	4	4	6	6	0	3	3	2
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Crape myrtle	S: 15'-25' x 25'	4	6	6	6	0	3	2	2
<i>Laurus 'Saratoga'</i>	Saratoga laurel	S: 20'-30' x 15'-25'	4	6	6	6	0	3	3	1
<i>Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp asplenifolius</i>	Catalina ironwood	M: 20'-40' x 15'-20'	6	4	6	6	4	2	2	2
<i>Olea europaea 'Swan Hill'</i>	Swan Hill olive	S: 15'-25' x 15'-20'	6	6	6	4	0	2	2	1
<i>Parkinsonia florida (Cercidium floridum)</i>	Blue palo verde	S: 25'-30' x 15'-20'	4	6	6	6	4	2	3	2
<i>Parkinsonia microphylla (Cercidium)</i>	Little leaf palo verde	S: 20'-30' x 20'-30'	4	4	6	6	4	2	3	2
<i>Pistacia chinensis 'Keith Davey'</i>	Chinese pistache	M: 35' x 35'	6	6	6	4	0	3	3	3
<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	Carolina laurel cherry	S: 20'-30' x 15'-25'	4	6	6	4	0	2	3	3
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	Holly leaf cherry	S: 10'-30' x 10'-25'	4	6	6	4	6	2	3	3
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate	S: 20' x 15'	6	6	6	4	0	3	3	2
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast live oak	L: 35'-60' x 40'-70'	6	6	6	4	6	2	2	3
<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	Blue oak	L: 30'-50' x 40'-70'	6	6	6	4	6	3	3	3
<i>Quercus kelloggii</i>	Black oak	L: 30'-70' x 30'-50'	6	6	6	4	6	3	3	3
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley oak	L: 70' x 70'	4	6	6	6	6	3	2	3
<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork oak	L: 30'-60' x 30'-60'	6	6	6	4	0	2	2	2
<i>Rhaphiolepis x 'Montic'</i>	Majestic Beauty Indian hawthorne	S: 25' x 10'	4	4	6	4	0	3	3	2
<i>Ulmus 'Frontier'</i>	Frontier elm	M: 30'-40' x 20'-30'	4	6	6	4	0	2	2	1
<i>Ulmus parvifolia 'Drake'</i>	Chinese elm	L: 45' x 35'-50'	4	6	6	4	0	2	2	1
<i>x Chitalpa tashkentensis 'Pink Dawn'</i>	Chitalpa	S: 15'-30' x 15'-30'	4	6	6	4	0	3	3	2

## City Of Santa Rosa Climate Forward Tree List

Species	Common Name	Site: Street	Site: Patio/Backyard	Site: Specimen	Site: Park/Large Property
<i>Aesculus californica</i>	California buckeye			x	x
<i>Arbutus 'Marina'</i>	Marina strawberry tree	x	x	x	x
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry tree	x	x	x	
<i>Arctostaphylos manzanita 'Dr. Hurd'</i>	Dr. Hurd manzanita		x	x	x
<i>Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'</i>	Ray Hartman ceanothus	x	x	x	x
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western redbud	x	x	x	x
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	Desert willow	x	x	x	
<i>Diospyros kaki</i>	Persimmon		x	x	
<i>Fraxinus dipetala</i>	California ash		x		x
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Australian willow	x	x		x
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Crape myrtle	x	x	x	x
<i>Laurus 'Saratoga'</i>	Saratoga laurel	x	x		x
<i>Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp asplenifolius</i>	Catalina ironwood	x	x		x
<i>Olea europaea 'Swan Hill'</i>	Swan Hill olive	X	x	x	
<i>Parkinsonia florida (Cercidium floridum)</i>	Blue palo verde	x	x	x	
<i>Parkinsonia microphylla (Cercidium)</i>	Little leaf palo verde	x	x	x	
<i>Pistacia chinensis 'Keith Davey'</i>	Chinese pistache	x	x		x
<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	Carolina laurel cherry	x	x		x
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	Holly leaf cherry		x		x
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate		x	x	
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast live oak				x
<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	Blue oak	x	x		x
<i>Quercus kelloggii</i>	Black oak		x		x
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley oak				x
<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork oak				x
<i>Rhaphiolepis x 'Montic'</i>	Majestic Beauty Indian hawthorne	x	x		x
<i>Ulmus 'Frontier'</i>	Frontier elm	x	x		x
<i>Ulmus parvifolia 'Drake'</i>	Chinese elm		x		x
<i>x Chitalpa tashkentensis 'Pink Dawn'</i>	Chitalpa	x	x	x	x

## City Of Santa Rosa Climate Forward Tree List

Species	Sun/Shade	Deciduous/Evergreen	Notes
<i>Aesculus californica</i>	S	D	Native with showy creamy white flowers in spring. Summer deciduous without supplemental irrigation. Allergenic. Honeybee toxic but supports native bees.
<i>Arbutus</i> 'Marina'	S/A/P	E	Handsome tree known for notable reddish peeling bark and orange berries.
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	S/A/P	E	Attractive pendulous clusters of flowers in mid to late winter. Edible fruit persists year round. May require pruning to establish/maintain tree shape.
<i>Arctostaphylos manzanita</i> 'Dr. Hurd'	S/A/P	E	Local native noted for striking mahogany bark and winter bloom. Slow growing.
<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Ray Hartman'	S/A/P	E	Native noted for blue spring bloom. Purchase as tree form.
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	S/A/P	D	Native noted for deep pink spring bloom. Slow growing. Seed pods held in winter.
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	S	E	Noted for fragrant, showy flowers spring and summer. Holds foliage with occasional summer irrigation. Attracts birds. Select named variety for flower color.
<i>Diospyros kaki</i>	S	D	Heavily fruiting tree with outstanding fall color.
<i>Fraxinus dipetala</i>	S/A/P	D	This native has small white fragrant flowers. Requires pruning to shape when tree is young. Allergenic.
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	S	E	Narrow, pale green leaves with semi-weeping habit. Fast growing.
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	S	D	Noted for summer flowers and fall color. Attractive bark when mature. Purchase when in flower for desired color. Suckers from base.
<i>Laurus</i> 'Saratoga'	S/A/P	E	Small growing bay tree. Leaves used for culinary purposes.
<i>Lyonothamnus floribundus</i> ssp <i>asplenifolius</i>	S/A/P	E	California native with unique notched linear leaves. Slow growing. Needs excellent drainage, loam or sand. May suffer chlorosis in heavy soil. Retains dead flowers, bark peels, fruit litter.
<i>Olea europaea</i> 'Swan Hill'	S	E	Gray-green foliage. This is the only truly fruitless variety.
<i>Parkinsonia florida</i> ( <i>Cercidium floridum</i> )	S	D	Wide canopy with greenish bark and pale yellow flower. Has thorns. Attracts birds. Summer leaf drop during extreme heat. Will not survive extended frost. Little pruning needed.
<i>Parkinsonia microphylla</i> ( <i>Cercidium</i> )	S	D	Wide canopy with greenish bark and pale yellow flower. Summer leaf drop during extreme heat. Will not survive extended frost. High pest tolerance. Little pruning needed.
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i> 'Keith Davey'	S	D	Known for fall color and as replacement for maple. Prefer male cultivar for lower maintenance and no pollen production.
<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	S/A/P	E	Small fragrant white flowers attract bees. Some pruning needed to maintain shape.
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	S/A/P	E	California native. Large clusters of cream colored flowers in the spring. Purchase in tree form. Notable sub species 'Lyonil'. Consider sunburn protection of trunk.
<i>Punica granatum</i>	S/A/P	D	Fruiting tree with beautiful fall foliage. Prune when young for strength. Needs heat for enhanced fruit flavor. Long blooming season.
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	S	E	One of the best local natives for large properties. Plant in non-irrigated area away from structures. Susceptible to Sudden Oak Death.
<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	S/A/P	E	Very slow growing local native with blue tinted foliage. Not susceptible to Sudden Oak Death.
<i>Quercus kelloggii</i>	S/A/P	D	Slow growing native with beautiful spring foliage. Large acorns. Susceptible to Sudden Oak Death.
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	S	D	One of the best local natives for large properties. Plant in non-irrigated area away from structures. Not susceptible to Sudden Oak Death.
<i>Quercus suber</i>	S	E	Non-native oak with unique bark characteristics. Tolerates various soils but needs good drainage.
<i>Rhaphiolepis</i> x 'Montic'	S/A/P	E	Notable for numerous light pink flowers over a long blooming period. Tolerates high heat. Slow grower. Buy in tree form.
<i>Ulmus</i> 'Frontier'	S	semi-SD	Good fall color. Noted for beautiful mottled bark. Fast growing. Good resistance to Dutch elm disease.
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Drake'	S	semi-SD	Beautiful tree with weeping habit. Grows best with occasional summer irrigation. Moderate maintenance/pruning required.
x <i>Chitalpa tashkentensis</i> 'Pink Dawn'	S	D	Notable for beautiful pink trumpet-shaped flowers. Long flowering season.