



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Agenda

Regular Meeting

Sept. 21, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

Council Chamber
1200 Carlsbad Village Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008
carlsbadca.gov

Welcome to the Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

We welcome your interest and involvement in the city's legislative process. This agenda includes information about topics coming before the Parks & Recreation Commission and the action recommended by city staff. You can read about each topic in the staff reports, which are available on the city website.

How to watch



In Person

City Council Chamber
1200 Carlsbad Village
Drive



Online

Watch the livestream at
carlsbadca.gov/watch

How to participate

If you would like to provide comments to the Commission, please:

- Fill out a speaker request form, located in the foyer.
- Submit the form to the Clerk before the item begins.
- When it's your turn, the Clerk will call your name and invite you to the podium.
- For non-agenda public comment, speakers must confine their remarks to matters within the Commission's subject matter jurisdiction.
- For public comment on agenda items, speakers must confine their remarks to the question or matter under consideration.
- Speakers have three minutes, unless the presiding officer (usually the Chair) changes that time.
- You may not give your time to another person, but can create a group. A group must select a single speaker as long as three other members of your group are present. All forms must be submitted to the Clerk before the item begins and will only be accepted for items listed on the agenda (not for general public comment at the beginning of the meeting). Group representatives have 10 minutes unless that time is changed by the presiding officer or the Commission.
- Failure to comply with the rules for public participation is disruptive conduct. Continuing disruptive conduct after being asked by the presiding official to cease may result in removal from the meeting.
- **In writing:** Email comments to parksandrec@carlsbadca.gov. Comments received by 3 p.m. the day prior to the meeting will be shared with the Commission prior to the meeting. When e-mailing comments, please identify in the subject line the agenda item to which your comments relate. All comments received will be included as part of the official record.

Reasonable accommodations

Reasonable Accommodations Persons with a disability may request an agenda packet in appropriate alternative formats as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Reasonable accommodations and auxiliary aids will be provided to effectively allow participation in the meeting. Please contact the City Manager's Office at 442-339-2821 (voice), 711 (free relay service for TTY users), 760-720-9461 (fax) or manager@carlsbadca.gov by noon on the Monday before the meeting to make arrangements. City staff will respond to requests by 4 p.m. on Monday, the day of the meeting, and will seek to resolve requests before the start of the meeting in order to maximize accessibility.

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 18, 2026

Minutes of the Special Meeting held on July 16, 2026

PRESENTATIONS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *The Brown Act allows any member of the public to comment on items not on the agenda. Please treat others with courtesy, civility, and respect. Members of the public may participate in the meeting by submitting comments as provided on the front page of this agenda. The Commission will receive comments in the beginning of the meeting. In conformance with the Brown Act, no action can occur on these items.*

CONSENT CALENDAR: *The items listed under Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion as listed below. There will be no separate discussion on these items prior to the time the Commission votes on the motion unless members of the Commission, staff, or the public request specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar for separate action.*

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

1. **CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE** – Receive a presentation regarding the work of the City Council Legislative Subcommittee and the city's recent and ongoing legislative advocacy efforts related to parks and recreation. (Staff Contact: Jason Haber, Intergovernmental Affairs Director)

Recommended Action: Receive the presentation and provide feedback as appropriate.

2. **APPEAL OF THE DENIAL TO REMOVE A CITY STREET TREE AT 1175 CAPE AIRE LANE** – Receive Mr. and Mrs. Becker's appeal of the denial to remove a city street tree at 1175 Cape Aire Lane, which was based upon criterion in the Carlsbad Municipal Code and City Council Policy, and make a determination to deny the appeal. (Staff contact: Roger Havlak, Parks & Recreation Department)

Recommendation: Receive the appeal and make a determination to deny it.

3. **PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT** – Receive a report on recently completed and upcoming Parks & Recreation Department activities, donations and grants, as well as other topics of interest. (Staff Contact: Ashlee Williams, Parks & Recreation Department)

Recommended Action: Receive the report.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTARY AND REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS: *This portion of the agenda is for the Commission to make brief announcements, brief reports of their activities and requests for future agenda items.*

STAFF COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes

Regular Meeting

May 18, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

Council Chamber
1200 Carlsbad Village Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Winston, Allemann, Sander, Gisbert, Knight, Revell, Grove.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Winston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 20, 2026

Motion by Commissioner Revell, second by Commissioner Sander, to approve the Minutes as presented. Motion carried, 7/0.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Motion by Chair Winston, seconded by Vice Chair Allemann, to approve Consent Calendar Item No. 1. Motion carried unanimously, 7/0

1. **ADDITIONAL NAMING SIGN TO THORP FIELD AT POINSETTIA COMMUNITY PARK** – Accept an additional naming sign to Thorp Field at Poinsettia Community Park. (Staff Contact: Kyle Lancaster, Parks & Recreation Department)

PUBLIC HEARING: None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

2. **PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT** – Receive a report on recently completed and upcoming Parks & Recreation Department activities, donations and grants, as well as other topics of interest. (Staff Contact: Ashlee Williams, Parks & Recreation Department)

Recommendation: Receive the report.

Recreation Services Manager Ashlee Williams, Parks Planning Manager Nick Stupin and Parks Superintendent Roger Havlak reviewed a PowerPoint presentation (on file in the Office of the City Clerk).

Commission received the report.

Commissioner Revell asked about the Beach Access Repairs Project walkway widening and whether the added footage is the reason the traffic barrier will not be re-installed. He also asked if there was a footage requirement for its removal and whether any studies

on it and adjacent travel were completed. He further asked whether there have been recent changes in turnout at the city events noted in the department report.

Commissioner Grove asked for clarification on the final process for the Pickleball Courts Project at Calavera Hills and Stagecoach Community Parks.

COMMISSION COMMENTARY AND REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS:

Chair Winston reported attending Fiesta at the Rancho on May 9, 2026, at Leo Carrillo Ranch, along with Commissioner Knight.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Parks & Recreation Director Kyle Lancaster thanked Chair Winston and Commissioner Knight for attending recent Parks & Recreation Department events. He provided a brief update on the CAPRA accreditation process and outlined the next steps, noting that the final board review will take place from late September to early October in Philadelphia. He reminded the Commission of the upcoming Special Meeting/Tour on July 16, 2026, to visit predetermined city parks, recreation facilities, and capital improvement program projects. He also noted the upcoming groundbreaking ceremony for Veterans Memorial Park in early July and thanked the Commissioners for their service.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:20 p.m.

Adriana Alvarez
Administrative Secretary



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes

Special Meeting

July 16, 2026, 12:30 p.m.

Council Chamber
1200 Carlsbad Village Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008

CALL TO ORDER: 12:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Winston, Sander, Gisbert, Knight, Revell, Grove (Allemann – Absent).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Winston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

1. **PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION TOUR**– Receive a staff led tour of predetermined city parks, recreation facilities, and capital improvement program projects (Staff Contact: Ashlee Williams, Parks & Recreation Department)

Recommendation: Receive the report.

Parks & Recreation Director Kyle Lancaster and other department staff led the tour of the Monroe Street Pool Expansion/Renovation Project, Carlsbad Boulevard Beach Access Repairs Project, Poinsettia Community Park Synthetic Turf Athletic Field Replacement, Chase Fields, Pine Avenue Community Park/Center, and the Senior Center.

Commission received the tour.

COMMISSION COMMENTARY AND REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS:

Chair Winston reminded Commissioners of opportunities to attend departmental special events, including the upcoming Aloha Plunge at Alga Norte Aquatic Center on July 18, 2026. He also indicated he would not be available for the August 2026 Commission Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Parks & Recreation Director Kyle Lancaster thanked the Commissioners for their attendance on the tour and at the recent groundbreaking ceremony for Veterans Memorial Park. He also provided an update on the efforts of the City Council Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Veterans

Recognition at Veterans Memorial Park and the intent to inform the Commission of the Subcommittee's recommendations during a fall meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: 3:37 p.m.

Adriana Alvarez
Administrative Secretary



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Staff Report

Meeting Date: Sept. 21, 2026

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

From: Kyle Lancaster, Parks & Recreation Director

Staff Contact: Jason Haber, Intergovernmental Affairs Director
jason.haber@carlsbadca.gov, 442-339-2958

Subject: City Council Legislative Subcommittee Update

Recommended Action

Receive a presentation regarding the work of the City Council Legislative Subcommittee and the city's recent and ongoing legislative advocacy efforts related to parks and recreation.

Executive Summary

The City Council Legislative Subcommittee works in coordination with the City Manager's Office, City Attorney's Office, legislative consultants and the Carlsbad community to:

1. Receive information and advise the City Council on intergovernmental and legislative matters affecting the city;
2. Continuously monitor proposed state and federal legislation, and
 - a. Review proposed legislation for consistency with the city's Legislative Platform;
 - b. Make recommendations to the City Council to identify high priority bills; and
 - c. Make recommendations to the City Council to adopt advocacy positions on priority bills not addressed by Legislative Platform;
3. Proactively seek to identify local and regional legislative needs and recommend bill sponsorship opportunities to the City Council; and
4. Engage and inform the Carlsbad community (residents, businesses, stakeholder groups) and other governmental agencies on intergovernmental and legislative matters affecting the city.

District 4 City Council Member and Legislative Subcommittee Member Teresa Acosta and Intergovernmental Affairs Director Jason Haber will provide an update on the city's recent and ongoing advocacy efforts related to parks and recreation.

Fiscal Analysis

This is an informational report, and no funding is being requested.

Public Notification and Outreach

This item was noticed in keeping with the Ralph M. Brown Act and it was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours before the scheduled meeting date.

Exhibits

None



Staff Report

Meeting Date: Sept 21, 2026
To: Parks & Recreation Commission
From: Kyle Lancaster, Parks & Recreation Director
Staff Contact: Roger Havlak, Parks Superintendent
Subject: Appeal of the Denial to Remove a City Street Tree at
1175 Cape Aire Lane

Recommended Action

Receive Mr. and Mrs. Becker's appeal of the denial to remove a city street tree at 1175 Cape Aire Lane, which was based upon criterion in the Carlsbad Municipal Code and City Council Policy, and determine to deny the appeal.

Background

Carlsbad Municipal Code Chapter 11.12 – Trees and Shrubs

The following sections of the Carlsbad Municipal Code Chapter 11.12 – Trees and Shrubs (Exhibit 1), apply to the duty of the Parks & Recreation Commission to act upon appeals of staff decisions related to city street trees.

Section 2.036.75 Additional Duties. The Parks & Recreation Commission shall have the additional power, and it shall be the duty of the commission to review tree-related issues and determine the needs of the city with respect to its tree planting, replacement, maintenance and preservation programs...In addition, in accordance with Section 11.12.150 of this code, the parks and recreation commission shall hear appeals from decisions of the city manager acting through the parks and recreation director or designee, regarding the planting or removal of street trees.

Section 11.12.010 Purpose and Intent. ...It is the policy of the city to line its streets with trees and to conduct a consistent and adequate program for maintaining and preserving these trees. It is the goal of this policy to provide for planting trees in all areas of the city and for selecting appropriate species to achieve as much beauty and economy as possible. It is also the policy of the city to protect and preserve all desirable trees that are located on the city's right-of-way...

Section 11.12.090 Permits Required for Tree Removal and Maintenance. A. Policy. The city values trees as an important part of the environment and shall strive to preserve them whenever possible and feasible. When reviewing requests for a street tree removal permit, the city shall discourage removing desirable trees and shall consider approving removal of desirable trees only as a last resort alternative for the applicant.

Section 11.12.150 Appeals. B. Any person may request a formal appeal to the Parks & Recreation Commission for:

- 1. The removal of a street tree which is not dead, dying or diseased; and/or*
- 2. The removal of a street tree that is listed as a heritage tree; and/or*
- 3. The removal of a street tree that is causing damage to hardscape...or for utilities.*

City of Carlsbad Council Policy No. 4 – Street Trees

The following sections of the City of Carlsbad Council Policy Statement No. 4 - Street Trees (Exhibit 2), apply to duty of the Parks & Recreation Commission to act upon appeals of staff decisions related to city street trees.

Purpose. Establishing a policy for the preservation, proper maintenance and continued enhancement of street trees in the City of Carlsbad.

Section II. Tree Removal. B. It shall be the intent of the City not to remove any tree solely for the cause of damage to hardscape or for the cause of routing underground or overhead utility lines. Trees causing damage to sidewalks, curbs, gutters or pavement shall be inspected by a City arborist. Alternatives to tree removal, if any, will be included in a written report by the City arborist. The written report will be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Director, or h/h designee. The Parks and Recreation Director, or h/h designee, will decide which alternative, if any, to implement.

D. Any person may request the removal of a street tree, which is not dead, dying, hazardous or in such a condition that the City would not normally remove the tree by making a formal appeal to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Such a request shall include the reason for the request for removal.

Section V. Appeals. B. Any person may request a formal appeal to the Parks and Recreation Commission for:

- 1. The removal of a street tree which is not dead, dying or diseased; and/or*
- 2. The removal of a street tree that is listed as a heritage tree; and/or*
- 3. The removal of a street tree that is causing damage to hardscape...or for utilities.*

Discussion

On June 13, 2025, staff sent a response letter to deny a request for the removal of a city street tree, a Eucalyptus sideroxylon (Red Iron Bark), within the public right of way at 1175 Cape Aire Lane (Exhibit 3). The request for removal of this city street tree was initiated by Mr. and Mrs. Becker, residents of the adjacent property at 1170 Cape Aire Lane. On May 26, 2026, another request for removal of this same street tree was initiated by Mr. and Mrs. Becker (Exhibit 4). Parks/Trees Supervisor Morgan Rockdale, an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist, conducted another thorough evaluation of the subject street tree and the site conditions on May 28, 2026. Mr. Rockdale concluded the removal of this street tree was not warranted under the following sections of Carlsbad Municipal Code Chapter 11.12:

Section 11.12.090. Permits Required for Tree Removal and Maintenance.

- B. Permits for Removal or Maintenance. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, pruning, cutting, trimming or removing any street tree in the city shall require a permit issued by the City Manager, acting through the Parks & Recreation Director....*
- C. Review of the application to remove a tree shall proceed as follows:*
 - 1. A city arborist shall inspect the property and recommend approving or denying the application in a written report submitted to the city manager, acting through the Parks & Recreation Director or designee.*
 - 2. The city arborist may authorize a tree's removal after finding either of the following circumstances:*

- a. *The tree is a hazard to life or property, and removing it is the only feasible way to eliminate the hazard;*
 - b. *The tree is dead, dying, diseased or damaged beyond reclamation.*
- 3. *If the city arborist does not find either of the above circumstances for removing a tree, a priority rating depending on the following factors can be considered for a tree removal.*
 - a. *Service life;*
 - b. *Damage to utilities and/or sewer lines;*
 - c. *Damage to hardscape;*
 - d. *Conformity of the existing tree to recommended species list.*

The highest priority removal shall be given to trees meeting all four factors.

The second priority will be given to trees meeting three factors...

- 4. *If city arborist has recommended denying the application, the applicant may request the Parks & Recreation Commission to review the arborist's decision.*
- 5. *If the Parks & Recreation Commission concurs with the city arborist's recommendation to deny the application, the applicant may request the City Council to review the matter for final action.*

Only one of the four above factors for removal (Sec. 11.12.090.C.3) applied to this street tree at the time of evaluation. Damage to hardscape, specifically a lifted sidewalk, was noted and referred to the city's Streets Maintenance Section for corrective action on May 28, 2026. The lifted sidewalk was subsequently ground flush by Streets Maintenance staff. On May 29, 2026, staff sent a response letter to Mr. and Mrs. Becker, notifying them of the determination to deny the request for removal of this city street tree (Exhibit 5). The letter explained the basis for this determination and provided information relating to the available appeal process.

Since the date of the second determination letter, staff arranged for the application of a systemic insecticide to this street tree on July 20, 2026. Based on an observed reduction of impacts from beetles to the street tree's overall condition after the first application of insecticide was conducted, a second application of an insecticide was conducted on Sept. 17, 2026.

On July 17, 2026, Mr. and Mrs. Becker filed an appeal of staff's decision - to the Parks & Recreation Commission - at the City Clerk's Office, using the proper form and a supporting letter (Exhibit 6) and submitting the requisite fee. Staff photographed the subject street tree and the site on Sept. 14, 2026 (Exhibit 7) and found the conditions to be similar to those of the initial evaluation on May 28, 2026.

Exhibits

- 1. Carlsbad Municipal Code Chapter 11.12 – Trees and Shrubs
- 2. City of Carlsbad Council Policy Statement No. 4 – Street Trees
- 3. City Street Tree Removal Response – City Street Tree at 1170 Cape Aire Lane, June 13, 2025
- 4. City Street Tree Removal Application – City Street Tree at 1170 Cape Aire Lane, May 26, 2026
- 5. City Street Tree Removal Response – City Street Tree at 1170 Cape Aire Lane, May 29, 2026
- 6. Appeal to the Parks & Recreation Commission – Denial of Street Tree Removal, July 17, 2026
- 7. Photos of the City Street Tree and Site Conditions at 1170 Cape Aire Lane, Sept. 14, 2026

CHAPTER 11.12
TREES AND SHRUBS

§ 11.12.010. Purpose and intent.

The public interest and welfare require that the city establish, adopt and maintain a comprehensive program for installing, maintaining and preserving trees within the city.

This chapter establishes policies, regulations and specifications necessary to govern installation, maintenance and preservation of trees to beautify the city, to purify the air, to provide shade and wind protection, and to preserve trees with historic or unusual value.

It is the policy of the city to line its streets with trees and to conduct a consistent and adequate program for maintaining and preserving these trees. It is the goal of this policy to provide for planting trees in all areas of the city and for selecting appropriate species to achieve as much beauty and economy as possible. It is also the policy of the city to protect and preserve all desirable trees that are located on the city's right-of-way.

It is the policy of the city to encourage new tree planting on public and private property and to cultivate a flourishing urban forest.
(Ord. NS-545 § 2, 2000)

§ 11.12.020. Definitions.

For purposes of this chapter the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section, unless it is obvious from the context that another meaning is intended:

"Certified arborist" means an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture.

"Community forest management plan" means a document that contains goals and policies that will guide the city in its actions and decisions affecting trees within the city limits.

"Hazardous tree" means any tree or tree condition which represents a danger to persons, property or other healthy trees.

"Heritage tree" means any tree existing within the city limits which has been so designated by resolution by the City Council. Heritage trees shall be trees with notable historic interest or trees of an unusual species or size.

"Maintain" or "maintenance" means the entire care of trees including ground preparation, fertilizing, mulching, trimming and watering.

"Plant" means an herb that lacks a permanent woody stem.

"Shrub" means a low woody plant having several stems and a trunk less than three inches in diameter at a height less than four and half feet above the ground.

"Tree" means any perennial woody plant having a trunk at least three inches in diameter at a height four and one-half feet above the ground. This definition shall include any

tree planted by or required to be planted by the city which will attain the stated size and maturity.

"Tree service life" means the number of years that the tree provides the most benefits with the least amount of costs.

"Valid tree site" means a tree site in that area of the public right-of-way where a tree can be planted. The requirement shall be one tree per residence or 40 feet between trees for a large tree site, 30 feet for a medium tree site and 20 feet for a small tree site. All tree sites beneath a high voltage electrical line shall be considered a small tree site. Tree sites shall be planted with a large, medium or small tree listed and approved by the city.

(Ord. NS-545 § 2, 2000)

§ 11.12.030. Jurisdiction of parks and recreation department.

The City Manager, acting through the Parks and Recreation Director or designee, shall exercise exclusive jurisdiction and control over the planting, maintenance, removal and replacement of trees, shrubs or plants in all streets, sidewalks, medians or other public rights-of-way of the city, and shall have such power, authority, jurisdiction and duties as are prescribed in this chapter.

(Ord. NS-545 § 2, 2000; Ord. NS-747 § 1, 2005; Ord. CS-072 § 2, 2009; Ord. CS-164 § 8, 2011)

§ 11.12.040. Master tree list.

The City Manager, acting through the Parks and Recreation Director or designee, shall develop and maintain a master tree list, which shall be adopted by resolution of the City Council and shall be on file in the office of the City Clerk. These documents shall specify the species of trees suitable and desirable for planting in certain areas in order to establish a wide ranging urban forest.

(Ord. NS-545 § 2, 2000; Ord. CS-072 § 2, 2009)

§ 11.12.050. Street tree planting and maintenance procedures.

The City Manager, acting through the Parks and Recreation Director or designee, shall develop and implement policies and standards for street tree planting and maintenance required of all tree planting and maintenance throughout the city.

(Ord. NS-545 § 2, 2000; Ord. NS-747 § 2, 2005; Ord. CS-072 § 2, 2009)

§ 11.12.060. Approval prior to planting.

No tree, shrub or plant shall be planted in any street, sidewalk, median or other public right-of-way of the city until the City Manager, acting through the Parks and Recreation Director or designee, first approves the kind and variety, designates the location therefor and grants the permit for planting.

(Ord. NS-545 § 2, 2000; Ord. CS-072 § 2, 2009)

§ 11.12.070. Street tree maintenance.

It shall be the obligation of the City Manager, acting through the Parks and Recreation Director or designee, to assign appropriate scheduled tree, shrub or plant maintenance, including, but not limited to, pruning, fertilization, irrigation and pest control based on age, species, size and location to assure the proper maintenance of all street trees, shrubs or plants.

(Ord. NS-545 § 2, 2000; Ord. CS-072 § 2, 2009)

§ 11.12.080. Protection of trees.

- A. No person shall remove, trim, prune or cut any street tree, shrub or plant now or hereafter growing in any street, sidewalk, median or other public right-of-way of the city.
- B. No person shall remove, injure or misuse any guard or device placed to protect any tree, shrub or plant now or hereafter growing in any street, sidewalk, median or other public right-of-way of the city.
- C. No person shall hitch or fasten any kind of animal to any tree, shrub or plant now or hereafter growing in any street, sidewalk, median or other public right-of-way of the city; nor shall any person place a post for hitching of animals within five feet of any tree, shrub or plant now or hereafter growing in any street, sidewalk, median or other public right-of-way of the city.
- D. No person shall trim, cut, prune, injure or remove by any means any tree, shrub or plant growing in any street, sidewalk, median or other public right-of-way of the city.
- E. No person shall:
 - 1. Construct a concrete, asphalt, brick or gravel sidewalk, or otherwise fill up the ground area near any tree, shrub or plant growing in any street, sidewalk, median or other public right-of-way of the city, to shut off air, light or water from the roots, except under written authority from the City Manager, acting through the Parks and Recreation Director or designee;
 - 2. Place building material, equipment or other substances likely to cause injury to a tree near any tree, shrub or plant growing in any street, sidewalk, median or other public right-of-way of the city, which might cause injury to the tree;
 - 3. Post any sign on any tree that is not scheduled for removal as described in Section 11.12.090 of this chapter, tree-stake or guard, or fasten any electric wire, insulator or any other device for holding electric, telephone, television or conductor wires to any tree, shrub or plant now or hereafter growing in any street, sidewalk, median or other public right-of-way of the city.
- F. No person shall interfere, or cause any other person to interfere, with employees of the city, or contractors employed by the city, who are engaged in planting, maintaining, treating, removing or replacing any street tree, shrub or plant or

removing or replacing any material which is likely to cause injury to the tree, shrub or plant.

- G. No person shall plant any street tree, shrub or plant except according to policies, regulations and specifications established pursuant to this chapter or any currently applicable ordinances or code sections.

(Ord. NS-545 § 2, 2000; NS-747 §§ 3, 4, 2005; Ord. CS-072 § 2, 2009)

§ 11.12.090. Permits required for tree removal and maintenance.

- A. Policy. The city values trees as an important part of the environment and shall strive to preserve them whenever possible and feasible. When reviewing requests for a street tree removal permit, the city shall discourage removing desirable trees, and shall consider approving removal of desirable trees only as a last resort alternative for the applicant.
- B. Permits for Removal or Maintenance. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, pruning, cutting, trimming or removing any street tree in the city shall require a permit issued by the City Manager, acting through the Parks and Recreation Director or designee.
- C. Review of the application to remove a tree shall proceed as follows:
1. A city arborist shall inspect the property and recommend approving or denying the application in a written report submitted to the City Manager, acting through the Parks and Recreation Director or designee.
 2. The city arborist may authorize a tree's removal after finding either of the following circumstances:
 - a. The tree is a hazard to life or property, and removing it is the only feasible way to eliminate the hazard;
 - b. The tree is dead, dying, diseased or damaged beyond reclamation.
 3. If the city arborist does not find either of the above circumstances for removing a tree, a priority rating depending on the following factors can be considered for a tree removal.
 - a. Service life;
 - b. Damage to utilities and/or sewer lines;
 - c. Damage to hardscape;
 - d. Conformity of the existing tree to recommended species list.

The highest priority removal shall be given to trees meeting all four factors. The second priority will be given to trees meeting three factors, etc.
 4. If the city arborist has recommended denying the application, the applicant

may request the Parks and Recreation Commission to review the arborist's decision.

5. If the Parks and Recreation Commission concurs with the city arborist's recommendation to deny the application, the applicant may request the City Council to review the matter for final action.
- D. All tree removal, whether by city or applicant, shall include the removal of the stump and the removal of all stump grinding chips and the backfilling of the hole created by stump removal with a good quality top soil suitable for the replanting of a replacement tree.
- E. Notification of Tree Removal.
1. The city shall post a letter of notification and a non-removable marking upon the subject tree a minimum of 30 days prior to its removal. The letter will be posted in a prominent location, visible from a public street and will include, but not be limited to the following information:
 - a. The location of the tree;
 - b. The reason for the tree's removal;
 - c. The date of the scheduled removal;
 - d. The species of tree to be replanted;
 - e. The size of the tree to be replanted;
 - f. The date by which an appeal must be made to the Parks and Recreation Commission;
 - g. A description of the appeal process.
 2. The letter of notification shall also be given to the owner of the property where the tree is scheduled be removed, and to the adjacent property owners, as well as to the property owners directly opposite and to the owners of the properties adjacent to the opposite property.
 3. The City Manager, acting through the Parks and Recreation Director or designee, may waive notification requirements for a tree removal in either of the following circumstances:
 - a. When the City Manager, acting through the Parks and Recreation Director or designee determines that a tree's condition threatens public health, safety or welfare;
 - b. When local, state or federal authorities have declared a state of emergency and a tree's condition threatens public health, safety or welfare.
- F. No heritage tree shall be removed except if it is determined by a city arborist that

such a tree is creating a hazard to life or property, or by formal appeals process.
(Ord. NS-545 § 2, 2000; NS-747 § 5, 2005; Ord. CS-072 §§ 2, 4, 2009)

§ 11.12.100. Tree replacement.

- A. It shall be the goal of the city to replace all removed street trees within 45 days of their removal if the tree site meets the minimum specifications for a valid tree site.
- B. All removed trees shall be replaced with a tree of the same species as removed, except where the removed species does not conform to the recommended species approved by the city, or the conditions existing at the valid site. No tree shall be planted into the public right-of-way that does not comply with the uniform street planting map as described in Section 11.12.120 of this chapter.
- C. Trees that are touching or nearly touching high-voltage utility lines shall be replaced with a recommended species.
- D. All tree replanting shall be with a minimum 15-gallon container tree, except when a person agrees to pay the difference in cost of a larger replacement tree size and any additional costs associated with the planting of a larger tree.
- E. A person may request replacement of a street tree species specified in the uniform street planting map with another species only when there is a medical allergy certified by a medical doctor. The replacement tree will be approved by the city arborist and the City Manager, acting through the Parks and Recreation Director or designee. All trees removed for this reason must be replaced with a tree listed as an approved species by the city.

(Ord. NS-545 § 2, 2000; Ord. CS-072 § 2, 2009)

§ 11.12.110. Overhanging trees.

The owner or his/her agent of every lot or parcel of land in the city upon which any trees, shrubs or plants are now or may be hereafter standing shall trim, or cause to be trimmed, the branches thereof so that the same shall not obstruct the adequate passage of light from any street light located in any street, sidewalk, median or other public right-of-way of the city and such owner or his/her agent shall trim all branches of any trees, shrubs or plants which overhang any street, sidewalk, median or other public right-of-way of the city so that there shall be a clear height of eight feet above the surface of the street, sidewalk, median or other public right-of-way of the city unobstructed by branches; and such owner or his/her agent shall remove from such trees, shrubs or plants all dead, decayed or broken limbs or branches that overhang such street, sidewalk, median or other public right-of-way of the city, and when any such trees, shrubs or plants are dead, such owner or his/her agent shall remove the same so that they shall not fall in the street, sidewalk, median or other public right-of-way of the city.

(Ord. NS-545 § 2, 2000)

§ 11.12.120. Uniform street planting map.

Upon the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the City Council

shall adopt a uniform street tree planting map that will depict a uniform method of tree plantings on city streets. The City Manager, acting through the Parks and Recreation Director or designee, shall have copies of this map made and the same shall be kept on file in the office of the City Clerk and may be obtained by the public.
(Ord. NS-545 § 2, 2000; Ord. CS-072 § 2, 2009)

§ 11.12.130. Community forest management plan.

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the City Council shall adopt a community forest management plan that provides direction to develop goals and policies that will guide the city to manage tree-related issues in a proactive manner. The plan will address trees on public property and will discuss planting, removal, replacement, maintenance and the preservation of trees growing on any public property or in any street, sidewalk, median or other public right-of-way of the city.
- B. When the management plan in its original or modified form is adopted by the City Council, it shall become the tree planting plan for public streets of the city and shall be strictly adhered to in all future street planting improvement projects and in the removal, replacement and maintenance of trees, shrubs or plants in public streets in the city. The management plan for the entire city does not need to be adopted by the City Council at one time. Instead, council may adopt the community forest management plan for different portions of the city within a reasonable length of time after the completed plan for any particular portion of the city has been submitted to the City Council for adoption.
- C. The City Manager, acting through the Parks and Recreation Director or designee, shall have copies of this plan made and the same shall be kept on file in the office of the City Clerk and may be obtained by the public.
(Ord. NS-545 § 2, 2000; Ord. CS-072 § 2, 2009)

§ 11.12.140. Heritage trees.

The City Council recognizes the important role trees have played in the history and development of Carlsbad and recognizes that a wide variety of trees can grow in its unique and temperate climate. The city may officially designate as heritage trees those trees in the community which have significant historical or arboricultural interest. It is the policy of the City Council that all designated heritage trees that are on public streets shall be protected.
(Ord. NS-545 § 2, 2000)

§ 11.12.150. Appeals.

- A. Any person may request a formal appeal to the Parks and Recreation Commission within 30 calendar days of the posting of a city tree for:
 - 1. The location or species of any street tree selected by the city for planting at a specific location; and/or

2. The city arborist's recommendation for the removal of any nonhazardous street tree.
- B. Any person may request a formal appeal to the Parks and Recreation Commission for:
1. The removal of a street tree which is not dead, dying or diseased; and/or
 2. The removal of a street tree that is listed as a heritage tree; and/or
 3. The removal of a street tree that is causing damage to hardscape or for the cause of routing underground or overhead utilities.
- C. If the Parks and Recreation Commission denies an applicant's appeal, the applicant may request a final appeal to the City Council within 10 calendar days of the Commission's decision.
- D. Fees for an appeal shall be determined by resolution of the City Council.
- E. Appeals will be made by submitting a tree appeal form available from the office of the City Clerk.
- (Ord. NS-545 § 2, 2000; Ord. CS-072 § 3, 2009)

§ 11.12.160. Violation.

- A. A violation of this chapter may be prosecuted either as a misdemeanor or an infraction pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 1.08, Section 1.08.010 of this code. The City Attorney shall have the discretion to reduce to an infraction any act made unlawful pursuant to this chapter if such reduction is warranted in the interest of justice.
- B. In addition to any criminal penalty, the city may, pursuant to Government Code Section 36901, impose a civil penalty for any violation of this chapter in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00.
- C. In addition to any other remedy provided by this code, any provision of this code may be enforced by civil action and an injunction; any violation of this code may result in civil penalties, monetary damages, attorney's fees, and investigatory costs.
- (Ord. NS-545 § 2, 2000; Ord. NS-762 § 1, 2005; Ord. CS-072 § 5, 2009)

CITY OF CARLSBAD
COUNCIL POLICY STATEMENT

Policy No. 4
Issued Date December 8, 2009
Effective Date December 8, 2009
Cancellation Date _____
Supersedes No. 4 (06-13-2000)

General Subject: STREETS
Specific Subject: Street Trees

Copies to: City Council, City Manager, City Attorney, Department and Division Heads,
Employee Bulletin Boards, Press, File

BACKGROUND

The City Council determined that the Street Tree Policy needed to be updated to ensure the preservation, proper maintenance and continued enhancement of public trees.

PURPOSE

Establishing a policy for the preservation, proper maintenance and continued enhancement of street trees in the City of Carlsbad.

POLICY

The following street tree policy shall be established

I. **Tree Planting**

- A. It shall be the goal of the City to maintain a tree population approaching 90% of all qualified (valid) tree sites within the developed right-of-way of the City.
- B. The City's Community Forest Management Plan shall set forth standards for planting, removal, replacement, maintenance and the preservation of street trees. The Plan will also target reforestation in areas of the City that do not have a healthy tree population.

II. **Tree Removal**

- A. The City will not remove any tree for the purpose of installation of a new sidewalk, or for street widening, until viable alternatives to tree removal have been investigated. Alternative to tree removal will be referred to the Parks and Recreation Director, or his/her designee, to allow for such alternatives to be considered prior to the removal of such a tree.

- B. It shall be the intent of the City not to remove any tree solely for the cause of damage to hardscape or for the cause of routing underground or overhead utility lines. Trees causing damage to sidewalks, curbs, gutters or pavement shall be inspected by a City arborist. Alternatives to tree removal, if any, will be included in a written report by the City arborist. The written report will be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Director, or his/her designee. The Parks and Recreation Director, or his/her designee, will decide which alternative, if any, to implement.
- C. The City will not remove existing street trees on the basis of individual or group preference for a specific species of tree.
- D. Any person may request the removal of a street tree, which is not dead, dying, hazardous or in such a condition that the City would not normally remove the tree by making a formal appeal to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Such a request shall include the reason for the request for removal.
- E. Potentially hazardous, dead, dying or diseased trees shall be inspected by a City arborist. Upon the written recommendation of the arborist for the removal of hazardous, dead, dying or diseased trees, a Letter of Notification will be posted in accordance with Section II.I.
- F. The City will not remove any tree solely for the cause of view restoration.
- G. Consideration for tree removal will be given a priority rating depending on the following factors:
 - 1. Service Life
 - 2. Damage to utilities and/or sewer lines
 - 3. Damage to hardscape
 - 4. Conformity of the existing tree to recommended species listThe highest priority removal shall be given to trees meeting all four factors. The second priority will be given to trees meeting three factors, etc.
- H. All tree removals, whether by the City, contractor, or resident shall include the removal of the tree stump and the removal of all stump grinding chips and the back-filling of the hole created by stump removal with a good quality top soil suitable for the replanting of a replacement tree.
- I. All trees recommended for removal shall be posted by attaching the Letter of Notification and a non-removable marking upon the subject tree a minimum of 30 days prior to their removal. In addition, notification in the form of a written notice shall be given to the owner of the property where the tree will be removed, and the owner on the adjacent properties and the owners on the property directly opposite, and the owners of the properties adjacent to the opposite property. Notification shall include, but not be limited to the following information:

1. The location of the tree
 2. The reason for the tree's removal
 3. The date of the scheduled removal
 4. The species of tree to be planted
 5. The size of the tree to be replanted
 6. The date by which an appeal must be made to the Parks and Recreation Commission
 7. A description of the appeal process
- J. The City will not use a clear-cut tree replacement strategy for the management of street trees. Where practicable, and when adequately planned, alternative tree sites will be planted a minimum of five years prior to the removal of reforestation.
- K. No Heritage Tree shall be removed except if it is determined by a City arborist that such a tree is creating a hazard to life or property, or by formal appeals process.

III. **Tree Replacement**

- A. It shall be the goal of the City to replace all removed street trees. The species and approximate date of the replanting shall be included on the notice of tree removal as specified in Section II.I.
- B. It shall be the goal of the City to replace all removed trees within 45 days of their removal if the tree site meets the minimum specifications for a valid tree site.
- C. Tree sites not meeting the minimum specifications for a valid tree site will not be planted.
- D. All removed trees shall be replaced with a tree of the same species as removed, except where the removed species does not conform to the recommended species approved by the City, or the conditions existing at the valid site. No tree shall be planted into the public right-of-way that does not comply with the "*Uniform Street Planting Map*" approved by the City.
- E. Trees touching or nearly touching high-voltage utility lines shall be replaced with a recommended species.
- F. All tree replanting shall be with a minimum 15-gallon container tree, except when a person agrees to pay the difference in cost of a larger replacement tree size and any additional costs associated with the planting of a larger tree.
- G. A person may request replacement of a street tree species specified by the "*Uniform Street Planting Map*", with another species, only when there is a medical allergy certified by a medical doctor. The replacement tree will be approved by the City arborist and the Parks and Recreation Director, or his/her designee. All trees removed for this reason must be replaced with a tree listed as an approved species by the City.
- H. The City will allow short-term rotational plantings.

- I. The Parks and Recreation Director, or his/her designee will review the approved species list annually and will add and delete tree species based on their adaptability to street tree sites in Carlsbad.

Page 4 of 4

IV. **Tree Maintenance**

Standards for tree maintenance shall be developed and incorporated into the City's Community Forest Management Plan, which shall be adopted by resolution of the City Council.

V. **Appeals**

- A. Any person may request a formal appeal to the Parks and Recreation Commission within thirty (30) calendar days of the posting of a City Tree for:
 1. the location or species of any street tree selected by City staff for planting at a specific location; and/or
 2. a staff recommendation for the removal of any non-hazardous street tree.
- B. Any person may request a formal appeal to the Parks and Recreation Commission for:
 1. the removal of a street tree which is not dead, dying or diseased; and/or
 2. the removal of a street tree that is listed as a Heritage Tree; and/or
 3. the removal of a street tree that is causing damage to hardscape or for the cause of routing underground or overhead utilities.
- C. If the Parks and Recreation Commission denies an appeal, the applicant may request a final appeal to the City Council within ten (10) calendar days of the Commission's decision.
- D. Fees for an appeal shall be determined by resolution of the City Council.
- E. Appeals will be made by submitting a Tree Appeal Form available from the office of the City Clerk.

June 13, 2025

Ms. Leah Becker
1175 Cape Aire Ln.
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Dear Ms. Becker,

This letter is in response to your recent request for the removal of a city street tree within the public right of way located at 1175 Cape Aire Ln. According to your communications, you are requesting the city approve the removal of this street tree due branch structure, likelihood of limb failure, fire hazard and tree debris.

Please be advised that city staff has inspected the subject street tree, *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* (Iron bark). This particular street tree is in conformance with the Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan's approved species list for new street tree plantings, and this street tree is in the city's existing inventory for maintenance. At the time of inspection, it displayed good health and is within its useful service life. Its condition is consistent with other city owned *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*. Adjacent hardscape damage was observed and reported to the Public Works Department.

Upon observing the above conditions, I determined that the removal of this street tree is not justifiable under the city's street tree ordinance. Specific to this determination, please refer to Sections 11.12.010. and 11.12.090 of the Carlsbad Municipal Code, Chapter 11.12 – Trees and Shrubs. Should you have any questions regarding the findings, please contact me at (442) 339-2837. If, after that contact you still wish to pursue removing this street tree, you may appeal staff's determination to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

The administrative fees for filing appeals are: \$120 for the Parks & Recreation Commission, and \$122 for the City Council. If the Commission or the Council decides in favor of the appellant, the respective fee will be refunded. The Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan and the Carlsbad Street Tree Ordinance is available on the city's website at [Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan 9.17.19.pdf](#) or you may request that the documents be mailed to you by contacting Parks Maintenance Administration at 442-339-2824.

Sincerely,



Morgan Rockdale
Parks/Trees Supervisor

cc: Roger Havlek, Parks Superintendent
cc: Todd Reese, Parks Services Manager

City of Carlsbad Street Tree Removal Application

Per City of Carlsbad Council Policy Statement No. 4 - Street Trees, Part II, Section G, *Consideration for street tree removal will be given a priority rating depending on the following factors:*

- *Service Life*
- *Damage to utilities and/or sewer lines*
- *Damage to hardscape*
- *Conformity of the existing tree to recommended species list*

The highest priority removal shall be given to trees meeting all four factors. The second priority will be given to trees meeting three factors, etc.

For additional information on street tree removals, please refer to Sections 11.12.010. and 11.12.090 of the Carlsbad Municipal Code, Chapter 11.12 – Trees and Shrubs.

These documents are included as appendices to the Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan, which is posted on the city's website at carlsbadca.gov.

Please submit this completed street tree removal application by mail: City of Carlsbad, Parks Maintenance Section, 1166 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92008, or by email: parksmaintenance@carlsbadca.gov. After the street tree has been evaluated by the City Arborist, a determination on the requested removal will be mailed to you. Please allow 30 days from city staff's receipt of the removal application for a determination to be provided.

Date of Request: May 26,
2026_____

Name: Jason
Becker_____

Address: 1170 Cape Aire Lane, Carlsbad, CA.
92008_____

Phone Number: 949 302-
8141_____

Email Address:
jasonb@hotmail.com_____

Address of the street tree requested for removal: 1175 Cape Aire Lane, Carlsbad, CA.
92008_____

Please include photos of the street tree requested for removal.

Please provide the factors for requesting removal of this street tree (one application per street tree):

The tree has been infested with beetles for the past few years which has created a toxic environment for all. Feces and leaf pieces litter our landscape and street year round. The tree serves absolutely zero

function and is a messy eye-sore. Our hardscape in the area of the tree is stained with beetle feces as are our cars and furniture. This Eucalyptus tree is a major nuisance and hazard. The tree is invasive and poses severe risks due to extreme flammability, heavy branch shedding, aggressive root systems, and home to invasive pests like this beetle. We need this tree removed.

May 29, 2026

Mr. Jason Becker
1170 Cape Aire Lane,
Carlsbad, CA. 92008

Dear Mr. Becker,

This letter is in response to your recent request to remove a city street tree located within the public right-of-way at 1175 Cape Aire Ln. According to your correspondence, you are seeking the city's approval for the removal due to the presence of beetle infestation, leaf debris, property damage and public safety concerns.

Please be advised that City staff have inspected the subject street tree, a *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*, (Iron Bark). This particular species is in conformance with the Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan's approved list for new street tree plantings, the tree is part of the City's existing maintenance inventory. At the time of inspection, the tree exhibited good health, is within its useful service life, and its condition is consistent with other City-owned *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*.

Upon observing the above conditions, I determined that the removal of the street tree is not justifiable under the city's street tree ordinance. Specific to this determination, please refer to Sections 11.12.010. and 11.12.090 of the Carlsbad Municipal Code, Chapter 11.12 – Trees and Shrubs. Should you have any questions regarding the findings, please contact me at (442) 339-2837. If, after that contact, you still wish to pursue removing this street tree, you may appeal the staff determination to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

The administrative fees for filing appeals are: \$120 for the Parks & Recreation Commission, and \$122 for the City Council. If the Commission or the Council decides in favor of the appellant, the respective fee will be refunded. The Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan and the Carlsbad Street Tree Ordinance is available on the city's website at [Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan 9.17.19.pdf](#) or you may request that the documents be mailed to you by contacting Parks Maintenance Administration at 442-339-2824.

Sincerely,



Morgan Rockdale
Parks/Trees Supervisor

cc: Roger Havlak, Parks Superintendent
cc: Brian Sidor, Inspector II

APPEAL TO THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Subject of Appeal: TREE REMOVAL/TREE PLANTING

In accordance with the appeals procedure as authorized by Title 11, Chapter 11.12, Section 11.12.150, of the Carlsbad Municipal Code, the undersigned hereby appeals from the decision of City staff rendered on May 29, 2026, which decision consisted of the following (i.e. set forth factual situation and the grounds for submitting this appeal): **BE SPECIFIC**. How did the decision maker error? What about the decision is inconsistent with local laws, plans or policy? (Use additional sheets as needed).

Please review attached documents.

The undersigned discussed the decision being appealed with:

Roger Havlak

on July 16, 2026

Appellant:

Leah Becker

SIGNATURE

Leah Becker

NAME (Please print)

1170 Cape Aire Lane

Carlsbad CA 92008

MAILING ADDRESS

562-301-4689

PHONE

July 16, 2026

DATE

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

DATE AND TIME APPEAL RECEIVED

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2026

**CITY OF CARLSBAD
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

Adrian T.

Original to Parks & Recreation Dept.
Copy to City Clerk's Office

Updated 1/15

The appeal fee is reimbursed to the appellant if the Parks and Recreation Commission grants the appeal. Please mail this form, along with the fee, to the City Clerk's Office at 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92008-1989

July 16, 2026

Parks & Recreation Commission
City of Carlsbad

RE: Appeal of Staff Determination Denying Street Tree Removal
1175 Cape Aire Lane, Carlsbad, CA
Pursuant to Carlsbad Municipal Code Section 11.12.150

Dear Commissioners,

In accordance with the appeals procedure authorized by Title 11, Chapter 11.12, Section 11.12.150 of the Carlsbad Municipal Code, I respectfully appeal the May 29, 2026 decision of City staff denying our request to remove the City-owned *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* street tree located within the public right-of-way adjacent to 1175 Cape Aire Lane.

The staff determination concluded that the tree is "in good health," is within its useful service life, and that its condition is consistent with other City-owned *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* trees. I believe the determination does not fully consider the documented condition of this specific tree, the damage it is causing to public infrastructure, and maintenance concerns resulting from its condition.

Grounds for Appeal

1. Significant eucalyptus leaf-eating beetle infestation that is not consistent with nearby City trees.

Although the City's determination states that the tree's condition is "consistent with other City-owned *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*," my observations indicate otherwise. The subject tree exhibits a substantially greater level of eucalyptus leaf-eating beetle activity than other City-owned eucalyptus trees located within the same cul-de-sac and surrounding neighborhood.

When comparing this tree with neighboring City trees of the same species, the extent of leaf damage, defoliation, and the accumulation of beetle feces beneath the canopy is readily apparent. The infestation has resulted in continuous deposits of insect feces, damaged leaves, and other debris on the adjacent sidewalk, driveway, and surrounding hardscape.

The excessive accumulation of debris requires continual maintenance which the residents have become responsible for even though the debris is coming from a city owned tree that the city does not maintain on a regular basis.

Because nearby City-owned eucalyptus trees do not exhibit the same degree of infestation or debris accumulation, the statement that this tree's condition is consistent with other City trees does not accurately reflect the conditions at this location.

2. Damage to public infrastructure.

The root system has lifted and displaced the public sidewalk and has also begun damaging the street pavement. These conditions create trip hazards for pedestrians, present potential liability concerns, and will likely result in increased maintenance and repair costs for the City if left unaddressed. While the city came to sand down the previous lift in the sidewalk, it clearly is just a short term fix.

3. The decision focuses on species suitability rather than this individual tree.

The City's letter notes that *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* is included on the Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan's approved planting list and is part of the City's maintenance inventory. While the species may generally be appropriate as a street tree, inclusion on an approved species list should not preclude removal when an individual tree is causing documented infrastructure damage and a level of disease and infestation that other trees are not exhibiting.

4. The decision is inconsistent with the purpose of the City's Street Tree Ordinance.

The purpose of the Street Tree Ordinance is to preserve healthy trees while protecting public safety, public improvements, and surrounding property. In this case, preserving this tree despite its documented impacts places the burden of ongoing infrastructure damage and continual cleanup of beetle debris, while allowing conditions to worsen.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Parks & Recreation Commission overturn the staff determination and approve the removal of the subject street tree. The staff determination appears to rely on the general suitability of the species rather than the condition of this individual tree. This tree presents unique circumstances, including a pronounced beetle infestation, ongoing damage to public infrastructure, and impacts that are not evident in neighboring City-owned trees of the same species. These site-specific conditions warrant individual consideration and support approval of the requested removal.

I respectfully ask the Commission to evaluate this tree based on its individual condition and impacts rather than on the general suitability of the species.

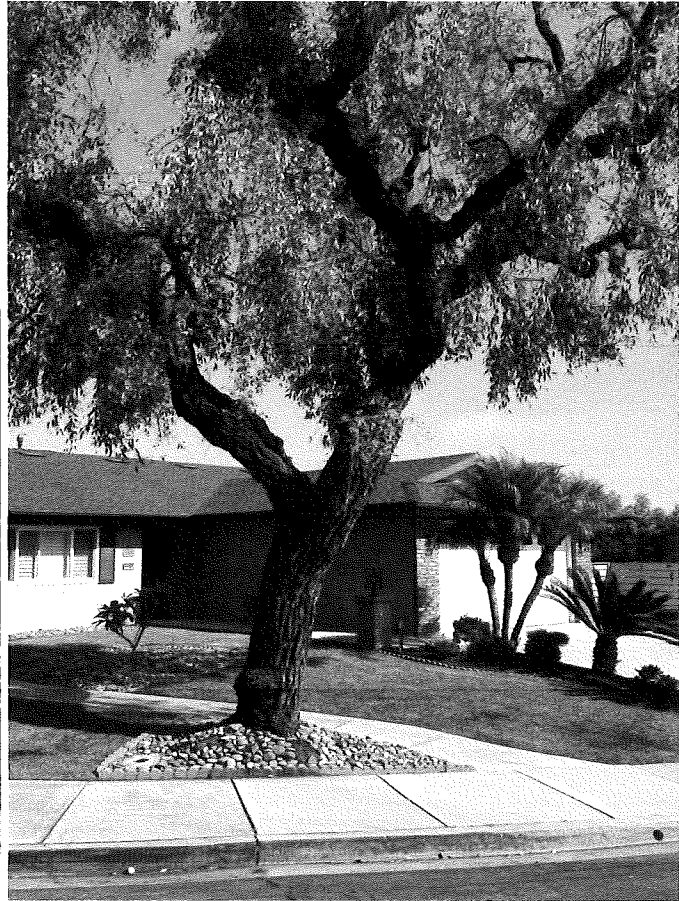
Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this appeal.

Mr. Jason Becker & Mrs. Leah Becker
1170 Cape Aire Lane
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Subject tree



neighboring trees



TO REORDER VISIT WWW.CAROUSELCHECKS.COM

The Becker Family Trust
Jason S. Becker TRTEE
Leah Lazo Becker TRTEE U/A 10/02/2018
1170 Cape Aire Lane
Carlsbad, CA 92008-3517

3361
011-0358/1210

Date 7/17/26

Pay to the Order of City of Carlsbad \$ 154.00
one hundred fifty four only Dollars

 Security details on back.

Bank of America
645 Carlsbad Village Dr.
Carlsbad, CA 92008

For appeal - Parks: Rec Comm. Leah Becker MP

⑆121000358⑆ 15941003528⑆ 3361







PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Staff Report

Meeting Date: Sept. 21, 2026

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

From: Kyle Lancaster, Parks & Recreation Director

Staff Contact: Ashlee Williams, Recreation Services Manager
ashlee.williams@carlsbadca.gov, 442-339-5778

Subject: Parks & Recreation Department Report

District: All

Recommended Action

Receive a report on recently completed and upcoming Parks & Recreation Department activities, donations and grants, as well as other topics of interest.

Executive Summary

Ashlee Williams, Recreation Services Manager, Nick Stupin, Parks Planning Manager, and Roger Havlak, Parks Superintendent, will report on recently completed and upcoming parks and recreation activities, as well as other topics of interest.

Exhibits

1. Department report



PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Sept. 21, 2026

GENERAL & RECREATION

CAPRA Accreditation Update

The department's CAPRA (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies) accreditation process through NRPA (National Recreation & Parks Association) is nearly complete. It involves a rigorous review where agencies must demonstrate adherence to industry standards in areas like program management, facility operations, and public safety. The department completed its self-assessment of 154 industry standards on January 14, 2026. Over the subsequent several months, the self-assessment was reviewed by a three-member CAPRA Certification Review Team (CRT), which then held virtual meetings with lead staff in the department to further vet the evidence submitted. Then, from June 28-30, 2026, the lead staff hosted the CRT for in-person tours of various parks, recreation centers, project sites, and open spaces throughout the city. On Aug. 17, 2026, the CAPRA Accreditation Senior Manager provided the lead staff with the CRT's record of review and visitation executive summary. The CRT's record and summary were very complimentary and indicated the department had met all 154 standards. The final hearing and ceremony for the accreditation process will be at the Sept. 28-30, 2026 NRPA conference in Philadelphia.

Acceptance of Donation of AED Units and Secured Cabinets

City Soccer Club has offered to donate seven automated external defibrillator (AED) units and secured cabinets to the City of Carlsbad for placement at high-use city parks, supplementing the city's existing inventory. The donation will expand access to life-saving emergency equipment for program participants, visitors and the public, with no acquisition cost to the city. Ongoing inspection and maintenance will be managed through the city's existing AED program and operating budget. The City Council will receive a staff report on the acceptance of the donation at its meeting on Oct. 20, 2026.

Department Customer Service Training

On May 19, 2026, the department held two customer service training sessions led by Jennifer Coyle of North Star Consulting. The training was provided for all full- and part-time department staff in preparation for both our busy summer season and year-round operations. The sessions reinforced best practices in customer service and focused on creating consistent, high-quality experiences for community members across all department sites, centers and programs.

Aquatics Annual Pre-Summer All-Staff Training

On Saturday, June 6, 2026, the department's aquatics staff conducted their annual all-staff pre-summer training. The full-day session prepared staff for the summer season through reviews of safety protocols and hands-on emergency response exercises. As part of the training, staff partnered with the Carlsbad Fire Department to conduct a joint emergency drill. The exercise simulated a drowning incident resulting in cardiac arrest, allowing lifeguards to provide initial care before transitioning response efforts to arriving EMS personnel. The coordinated drill strengthened interdepartmental collaboration and emergency preparedness for pool staff.

Aloha Plunge at Alga Norte Aquatic Center

On Saturday, July 18, 2026, the Alga Norte Aquatic Center brought the islands to the City of Carlsbad for another unforgettable Aloha Plunge! With warm summer weather setting the perfect backdrop, more

than 500 guests cooled off in the pool while tackling inflatable obstacles, playing beach-inspired games, and soaking up the tropical atmosphere. Families captured memories at the colorful aloha-themed photo backdrop, kids enjoyed the splash pad and lawn games, and everyone embraced the laid-back island vibes. As the evening came to a close, guests gathered for a lively Polynesian dance performance that added the perfect finishing touch to a fun-filled summer celebration.

Lifeguard Appreciation Day

On July 31, 2026, the department's aquatic staff celebrated National Lifeguard Appreciation Day by recognizing Carlsbad's lifeguards for their dedication to keeping local aquatic facilities safe. During the celebration at the Alga Norte Aquatic Center, the nonprofit Carlsbad Lifeguard Scholarship Fund presented its first-ever \$1,500 scholarships to four Aquatics team members: Jake Battistuz, Max Gerdeman, Emily Groom and Clara Thrall. The scholarship fund supports lifeguards pursuing higher education, trade schools and professional certifications while recognizing their commitment to leadership and community service.

Snores & S'mores

The sold-out Snores & S'mores overnight campout was held Aug. 8-9, 2026, at Aviara Community Park. Families participated in How to Train Your Dragon-themed activities, including games, challenges, crafts, face painting, and a photo booth. The evening included a BBQ dinner, s'mores, popcorn, and an outdoor showing of How to Train Your Dragon. Families then camped overnight on the ball field and enjoyed a continental breakfast and scenic hike Sunday morning. More than 80 volunteers helped support the event and make the weekend possible.

The 20th Annual Leo Carrillo Ranch Film Festival

The 20th annual Leo Carrillo Ranch Film Festival welcomed sold-out crowds for all three screenings in the three-Friday series held Aug. 21 through Sept. 4, 2026, at the historic Leo Carrillo Ranch. Guests enjoyed *Manhattan Merry Go Round* (1937), a musical comedy starring Leo Carrillo; *Under Western Skies* (1945), a western featuring Carrillo; and the 1942 classic *Casablanca*. Guests arrived early to tour the historic Hacienda, enjoy refreshments and gather with friends before settling in for sunset screenings under the stars. The milestone 20th anniversary season was a successful celebration of classic films, Leo Carrillo's legacy and one of Carlsbad's treasured historic landmarks.

End of Summer Bash

The Carlsbad Senior Center hosted more than 100 community members at the End of Summer Bash on Friday, Aug. 28, 2026. Due to the heat, activities were moved indoors, but the event continued as planned. The evening featured live performances by the Senior Center Ukulele Jam Club and local band Ancora, volunteer instructor booths highlighting current class offerings, and complimentary root beer floats and snacks available by donation. The event provided an opportunity for community members to connect, learn about Senior Center programs and enjoy an evening together.

Fall Program Registration

Registration for fall recreation classes opened on Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2026, with programs beginning on Monday, Aug. 31, 2026. The Fall Community Services Guide was also made available online and featured a wide range of programs for all ages, including a variety of programs such as dance, adult sports, organized leagues, swim lessons, arts, and more.

Family Movie Night

On Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026, more than 400 people arrived at Stagecoach Community Park for a “block-buster” night featuring A Minecraft Movie (PG)! Families enjoyed Minecraft-themed crafts, games, obstacle races, bounce houses and other activities before settling in for the movie under the stars. Guests even got to meet Steve, Garrett and the Chicken Jockey, making the evening truly “creeper”-fect for Minecraft fans of all ages. It was a fun-filled night of laughter, family time and Minecraft magic!

Upcoming Events

Super Hero Obstacle Race

Sunday, Oct. 4, 2026

8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Alga Norte Community Park

Admission is \$33 per person; children ages 3 and younger are free.

Participants will dash through a 2K superhero-themed obstacle course filled with fun challenges for all ages. Every hero who completes the race will receive a cape, bib number, and a finisher’s medal to celebrate their victory. It will be an unforgettable, action-packed community event.

Pumpkin Plunge

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Alga Norte Aquatic Center

Admission is \$15 per person; children ages 3 and younger are free.

The event will feature themed pool activities, games with prizes, floating obstacles, use of the splash pad, and a floating pumpkin patch where participants can lasso and take home a pumpkin. The program provides a seasonal recreation opportunity for families in a safe and festive setting.

Día de los Muertos

Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park

Admission is free; no registration required.

The event will feature festive decorations, face painting, arts and crafts, a community ofrenda, photo opportunities, food and live performances by Ballet Folklorico de Tapatio de San Dieguito and Grupo Bella. The celebration provides a family-friendly opportunity for the community to honor loved ones and experience the vibrant cultural traditions of Día de los Muertos.

PARKS

Monroe Street Pool Renovation/Expansion Project

The contractor is overseeing the interior finishing and the exterior trimming on the administration/locker room building and the family restrooms/mechanical room building. The contractor has additionally completed the following work on the enlarged pool and deck: tile work for lane lines and edge coping, light pole/shade structure/bleacher installations and all concrete pours for the surrounding deck. The contractor also recently completed pouring of the footings for the solar thermal array, and installation of the stormwater biofiltration basin. The facility closure is currently scheduled through early fall 2026. Staff have begun planning a ribbon-cutting event for reopening the facility; more information will follow.

Veterans Memorial Park Project

On Feb. 24, 2026, the City Council awarded the construction contract for Veterans Memorial Park to BrightView Landscape. On April 29, 2026, the construction contract was finalized. Since June 23, 2026, project team meetings have been held each week. On July 6, 2026, Representative Mike Levin and Assembly Member Tasha Boerner joined City Council Members and Parks & Recreation Commissioners for the park's groundbreaking ceremony. On July 20, 2026, the city issued the notice to proceed and BrightView Landscape mobilized construction trailers and equipment on site. Shortly thereafter, construction fencing, safety delineation, and stormwater protection devices were installed. Over the last month, the bulk of the work has focused on the mass grading of the northern end of the park stie.

On March 10, 2026, the City Council authorized the formation of the Ad-Hoc City Council Veterans Memorial Park Veterans Recognition Subcommittee, and appointed Council Members Burkholder and Shin to serve on it. This subcommittee is seeking to address the public interest in honoring and recognizing veterans, individual or otherwise at the park. The City Clerk's office developed a plan for three meetings, the first of which was held on June 30, 2026. Staff provided a comprehensive report and presentation, then received substantial input from members of the subcommittee and the public. Staff incorporated that input into the report and presentation at the second meeting, which was held on July 29, 2026. At the second meeting, additional input was provided by the members of the subcommittee and the public. Staff will incorporate that input into the report and presentation for the third and final meeting, which will be held on Sept. 30, 2026. After the conclusion of the three scheduled meetings, the subcommittee will report back to the City Council with its recommendations.

Robertson Ranch Park Project

The City Council approved the Robertson Ranch Park's recommended master plan on July 23, 2024, and directed staff to proceed with the necessary environmental permitting and entitlements for the park project. The consultant team completed preparation of the supplemental studies that are critical for the project's environmental permitting and entitlements. These studies included a biological report and a local mobility analysis. On Jan. 13, 2026, staff submitted the associated documents and officially applied for the park's Conditional Use Permit. The Community Development Department completed its processing of the documents, and the first round of review comments were received at the end of February 2026. Staff worked with the design consultant to address those comments and updated the permitting and entitlement documents. The second-round resubmittal of those documents occurred on Aug. 13, 2026. The second-round review comments were received from the Community Development Department in mid-September 2026. Staff will work with the design consultant to address those comments and update the permitting and entitlement documents over the coming few months.

Stagecoach and Calavera Hills Community Parks Pickleball Courts Project

Staff received the construction plans from the design consultant and submitted them to the Community Development Department for first-round review at the end of December 2025. Staff received the review comments at the end of February 2026 and forwarded those comments to the design consultant for corrections. Staff resubmitted the corrected construction plans to the Community Development Department for second-round review in early May 2026 and received additional comments from the department in early July 2026. The construction plans will be further revised by the design consultant and resubmitted to the Community Development Department by the end of September 2026.

Beach Access Repairs Project

The Beach Access Repairs Project administered by the Transportation Department and Construction Management & Inspection Division, commenced in November 2026. The project scope includes the phased reconstruction of the four switchback beach access stairways, and the widening of

segments of the upper sea wall walkway, between Hemlock and Sycamore Avenues. A portion of the Tamarack Upper Picnic Facilities grass, immediately north of Hemlock Avenue was used as the construction storage and lay-down area for the project. The occupation of this space by the contractor impacted the aesthetics of this State Parks property that the city maintains under the Joint Powers Agreement. After a planned moratorium on construction work during the summer, the contractor remobilized its forces at the Hemlock and Cherry Avenues beach access stairways on Sept. 8, 2026.

Alga Norte and Aviara Community Parks Synthetic Turf Fields Replacement Projects

The existing synthetic turf on the two multi-purpose athletic fields at Alga Norte Community Park, and on the large multi-purpose athletic field at Aviara Community Park, need replacement due to their age and wear. In preparation for these replacements, staff engaged a design consultant to review the available synthetic turf systems. That review included consideration of several factors, including performance and durability, health concerns, environmental impacts and maintenance costs.

Staff and the design consultant subsequently developed the plans and specifications for the Alga Norte and Aviara Community Parks Synthetic Turf Field Replacement Projects. The synthetic turf system specified to be installed in the scope of these two projects is the Tencate Pivot, or approved equal. This synthetic turf system, or approved equal, was previously specified for the Poinsettia Community Park Synthetic Turf Field Replacement Project, which was successfully completed in early 2026.

The Alga Norte and Aviara Community Parks Synthetic Turf Field Replacement Projects are currently advertised for public bidding. The bidding period closes on Sept. 23, 2026, and staff plan to request the award of a construction contract to the low bidder at the City Council Meeting on Oct. 6, 2026. Work on the Aviara Community Park synthetic turf athletic field is anticipated to commence in early November and to be completed in late December 2026. Work on the Alga Norte Community Park synthetic turf athletic fields is anticipated to commence in early January and to be completed in late March 2027.

Recent Trails Volunteers Events

On June 6, 2026 (National Trails Day) and July 15, 2026, volunteers participated in trails maintenance events at The Crossings Trail, and the Village H North Trail, respectively. In each case, staff welcomed the volunteers at the trailhead and presented safety instructions, along with an overview of the day's maintenance projects. Staff then provided the necessary hand tools and materials for the work and led volunteers on different tasks, including adding decomposed granite, surface grading, enhancing drainage, and removing invasive vegetation or debris. Progress was clearly made across significant sections of both trails. The city greatly appreciates the dedicated volunteers who contributed their time and efforts to the maintenance of these open space areas which enhance our community!

2026 Trails Volunteers Events

The 2026 Trails Volunteers Annual Calendar includes Saturday and Wednesday events, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

- Sept. 26, 2026 [National Public Lands Day]: Rancho Carrillo West Trail
- Oct. 21, 2026: Melrose 55 Filoli Circle Trail
- Nov. 21, 2026: Lake Calavera Trails