



Environmental Quality Commission

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Date: 5/18/2022

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: [Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – ID# 865 1520 6309

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, COVID-19, EMERGENCY ADVISORY NOTICE

Consistent with Government Code section 54953(e), and in light of the declared state of emergency, and maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can listen to the meeting and participate using the following methods.

- How to participate in the meeting
 - Access the meeting real-time online at:
[Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) –Meeting ID 865 1520 6309
 - Access the meeting real-time via telephone at:
(669) 900-6833
Meeting ID 865 1520 6309
Press *9 to raise hand to speak

Subject to Change: Given the current public health emergency and the rapidly evolving federal, state, county and local orders, the format of this meeting may be altered or the meeting may be canceled. You may check on the status of the meeting by visiting the City's website www.menlopark.org. The instructions for logging on to the Zoom webinar and/or the access code is subject to change. If you have difficulty accessing the Zoom webinar, please check the latest online edition of the posted agenda for updated information (menlopark.org/agendas).

Regular Session ([Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – ID# 865 1520 6309)

A. Call To Order

B. Roll Call – Elkins, Chair Evans, Kabat, Larocca Hedley, Lin, London, Schmidt

C. Public Comment

The public may address the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) on any subject not listed on the agenda. Each speaker can make public comment for a limit of three minutes once. The EQC cannot act on items not listed on the agenda other than to provide general information.

D. Regular Business

- D1. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair
- D2. Approve the March 16, 2022 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes ([Attachment](#))
- D3. Public urban tree canopy and Heritage Tree Ordinance implementation presentation ([Attachment](#))

E. Reports and Announcements

E1. Reports and announcements from staff and Commissioners

F. Adjournment

At every Regular Meeting of the Commission, in addition to the Public Comment period where the public shall have the right to address the Commission on any matters of public interest not listed on the agenda, members of the public have the right to directly address the Commission on any item listed on the agenda at a time designated by the Chair, either before or during the Commission's consideration of the item.

At every Special Meeting of the Commission, members of the public have the right to directly address the Commission on any item listed on the agenda at a time designated by the Chair, either before or during consideration of the item.

For appeal hearings, appellant and applicant shall each have 10 minutes for presentations.

If you challenge any of the items listed on this agenda in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Any writing that is distributed to a majority of the Commission by any person in connection with an agenda item is a public record (subject to any exemption under the Public Records Act) and is available by request by emailing the city clerk at jaherren@menlopark.org. Persons with disabilities, who require auxiliary aids or services in attending or participating in Commission meetings, may call the City Clerk's Office at 650-330-6620.

Agendas are posted in accordance with Government Code §54954.2(a) or §54956. Members of the public can view electronic agendas and staff reports by accessing the City website at menlopark.org/agenda and can receive email notification of agenda and staff report postings by subscribing to the "Notify Me" service at menlopark.org/notifyme. Agendas and staff reports may also be obtained by contacting City Clerk at 650-330-6620. (Posted: 05/12/2022)

Environmental Quality Commission

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT****Date:** 3/16/2022**Time:** 6:00 p.m.**Location:** Zoom**A. Call To Order**

Chair Price called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Elkins (exited at 8:00 p.m.), Evans (Vice Chair) (arrived at 6:13 p.m.) Kabat, London (exited at 8:30 p.m.), Price (Chair),

Absent: None

Staff: Sustainability Manager Rebecca Lucky; Management Analyst II Ori Paz

C. Public Comment

None.

D. Regular Business

D1. Approve the February 16, 2022 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (Kabat/ London), to approve the February 16, 2022 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes, passed 5-0.

D2. Consider choosing and recommending a building electrification reach code option for 2023 (Attachment)

Sustainability Manager Rebecca Lucky introduced the item and made a presentation (Attachment).

The Commission received information about building reach codes.

Diane Bailey spoke in support of reach code options that included existing building electrification, partnerships for electrification, permit streamlining and outreach; and provided information about methane pollution and PCE reach code resources coming in April.

ACTION: Motion and second (Kabat/ London), to recommend proposed new construction reach codes and existing building electrification measures with additional advice to: (1) consider returning to City Council for additional existing building electrification measures after the Bay Area Reach Codes Initiative releases existing building options and the City considers support services packages, such as available financial programs and/or a public private partnership with BlocPower and (2) the following specific measures are added to the proposed existing building measures: (a) in-lieu fee added to any exceptions provided for both new and existing buildings, (b) parking lot alterations require electric vehicle (EV) charging, (c) require 100 percent EV charging equipment installed for new construction, (d) streamline permit processes, (e) consider hardship exemptions, (f) alteration or addition larger than 200 square feet require full building electrification, (g) consider a replace-at-end-of-life requirement with implementation occurring at a future date, (e.g. 2

years after adoption) h) consider a long lasting ordinance versus every three-year adoption cycle (e.g. health and safety ordinance), passed 4-0 (Elkins absent).

E. Reports and Announcements

- E1. Reports and Announcements from staff and commissioners
1. Sustainability Manager Lucky announced an Arbor Day planting event on April 2, 2022 at Hamilton Park 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. and noted the April EQC meeting will need to be rescheduled.
 2. Commissioner Evans announced an Earth Day event on April 16, 2022 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and Commissioner Kabat added that it would be at Flood Park

F. Adjournment

Chair Price adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Ori Paz, Management Analyst II



ANNUAL ARBORIST REPORT

May 18 EQC meeting

TREE DIVISION OVERVIEW

- City staff
 - 3 maintenance workers and city arborist, plus a contractor
- Tree City USA for 23 years
 - Maintain a tree board or department
 - Have a community tree ordinance
 - Spend at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry
 - Celebrate Arbor Day
- Growth Award for 7 years
 - High level of tree care and community engagement





URBAN CANOPY



- Approx. 19,000 street and park trees
 - Routine maintenance every 5 years
- Top 3 public tree species
 - Coast Live Oak: 2,364
 - American Sweetgum: 1,333
 - London Plane: 1,051
- Fiscal year 2021-22
 - Number of Trees planted: 170
 - Number of Trees pruned/trimmed: 1,438
 - Number of Trees removed: 152

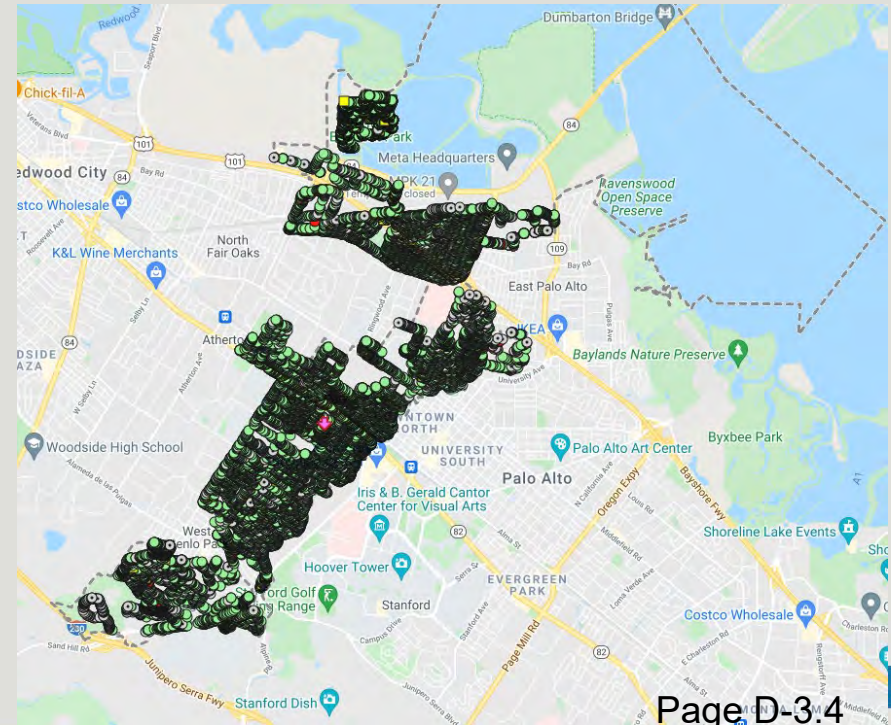




STREET TREE REQUESTS AND REPORTING



- Residents can request street trees to be planted in front of their property in the public right of way
 - City's street tree management plan
 - Canopy's Branching Out program
- Residents can also report tree-related issues to ACT Menlo Park
 - beta.menlopark.org/Services/ACT-Menlo-Park



OTHER TREE DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES



- Annual celebration of Arbor Day
- Evaluate heritage tree permit applications for removals and heavy pruning
- Heritage tree ordinance revision in July 2020





HERITAGE TREE ORDINANCE

Purpose

- To ensure that there will be a significant population of large, healthy trees over the long term; and
- To protect and preserve the scenic beauty and natural environment, prevent erosion of topsoil and sedimentation in waterways, encourage quality development, provide shade and wildlife habitat, counteract pollutants in the air and decrease wind velocities and noise.

HERITAGE TREE DEFINITION

- Any tree other than oaks has a trunk with a circumference of 47.1 inches (diameter of 15 inches) or more, measured at 54 inches above natural grade
- Any oak tree native to California has a trunk with a circumference of 31.4 inches (diameter of 10 inches) or more measured at 54 inches above natural grade
- A tree or group of trees specifically designated by the City Council for protection because of its historical significance, special character or community benefit

CHANGES TO THE ORDINANCE

- More application requirements
- Clearer decision making criteria
- City-approved consulting arborist list
- New appeal process
- Tree replacement requirement
- Include tree appraisal values for mitigation requirements (development only)



PERMIT PROCESS



Primary removal reason	Application requirements	Replacement tree requirements	Appeal process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dead Tree health rating Tree risk rating Low desirable/ invasive tree species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application form Arborist report Replacement tree plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correlates to the size of the heritage tree trunk diameter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only the permit applicant may appeal the city's decision.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Utility inference 	In addition to the requirements above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed construction plans Cost analysis of construction costs associated with preserving the trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correlates to the heritage tree appraisal value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any community member may appeal the city's decision. Notices are mailed out to neighboring properties On-site postings are required.

OUTCOME OF THE ORDINANCE

- Application requirements more stringent
 - Cost analysis in construction and tree preservation
 - Alternative design
 - Replacement tree requirement based on tree appraisal value
 - Replacement tree plan includes specific details: location, container size, and tree species
- More incentive to preserve trees

ONLINE PERMITTING SYSTEM



- To submit and search for a heritage tree permit application
 - [Menlopark.org/permitcenter](https://menlopark.org/permitcenter)

Home Building Planning **Public Works** Special Event Permits

Search Applications

Search for Records
Enter information below to search for records.

- Site Address
- Parcel Number
- Record Information

Select the search type from the drop-down list.

General Search General Search

Record Number: Record Type: Heritage Tree Permit

Project Name:

Start Date: 05/05/2019 End Date: 05/04/2022

Street No.: - To: Street Name: Unit No.:

City: State: Zip:

Parcel No.:

► Search Additional Criteria

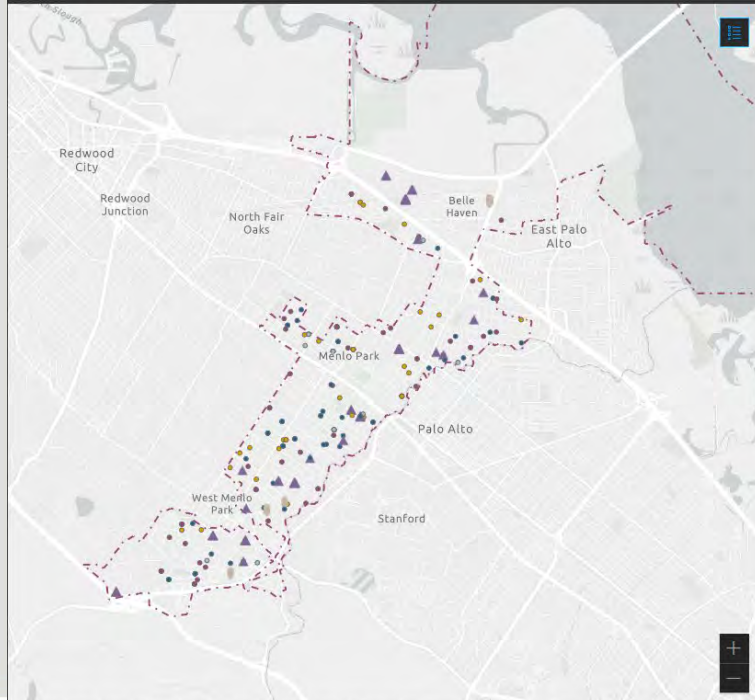
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FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 DASHBOARD



Heritage tree permit applications

Fiscal Year 2021-2022



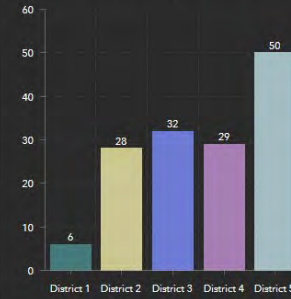
County of Santa Clara, California State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of...

Tree removal requests

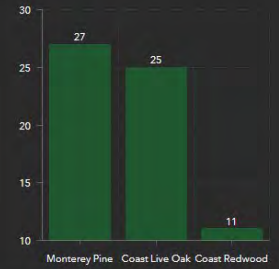
235

Total permit applications: 145

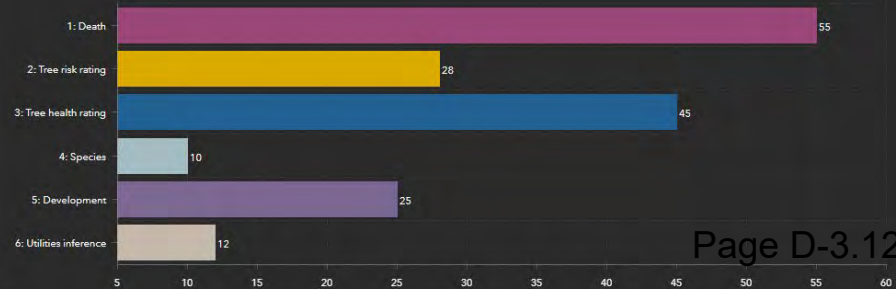
Applications by district



Top 3 tree species for removal



Approved based upon:



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FISCAL YEAR COMPARISON



Fiscal year	Heritage tree permit applications	Heritage tree removal requests	Top 3 tree species for removal	Top 3 primary removal reasons
2020 – 2021	202	401	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monterey pine• Coast live oak• Coast redwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tree health• Tree risk• Death and development
2021 – May 3, 2022	145	235		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Death• Tree health• Tree risk

IN PROGRESS

- Updating the administrative guidelines
- Updating the new Trees webpage
- Hiring a maintenance worker
- Adding more approved consulting arborists





THANK YOU