

RECREATION AND PARKS

TREE CARE MANUAL

Intent and Purpose:

City parks are graced with a large population of trees, including magnificent individual trees, groupings of trees, heritage trees, special habitat value trees, and many other ornamental trees from climates around the world. These trees provide large cooling islands for the City and offer an escape to a natural environment. Trees are a key component in the ecosystem and are aesthetically pleasing to neighborhood landscapes. Trees provide economic benefits to the community and contribute to a high quality of life.



Heritage tree – tipu tree, (Tipuana tipu) – one of the largest specimens in the Los Angeles area grows in the Chavez Ravine Arboretum at Elysian Park among many more species of rare and unique trees.

Sustaining trees in developed environments presents a challenge that requires careful planning and attentive maintenance. The remnants of the original native plant life of the Los Angeles Basin are increasingly vulnerable after more than a century of development. In order to meet these challenges, the Urban Forest Program has been developed and approved as a policy of Department of Recreation and Parks.

The **Recreation and Parks Tree Preservation Policy** is the primary regulatory tool that gives direction for orderly protection of specified trees, maintains their value, and avoids significant negative effects to the ecosystem. By assuring preservation and protection through regulation and standards of care, these resources will remain significant contributions to the environment and landscape, and continue to add to the unique character of Los Angeles City Parks.



Heritage tree – unusual Eucalyptus lehmanii in Pacific Palisades Park



Heritage tree in Green Meadows Park – odd-looking African sausage tree, (Kigelia africana), rare and unique in Los Angeles landscaping.



The **Tree Care Manual** is a separate document issued by the General Manager through the Divisions of Forestry and Planning & Construction. This document establishes specific technical regulations, standards and specifications necessary to implement the DRP *Tree Preservation Policy* (Appendix A) and defines the City's tree preservation goals. These goals are intended to provide consistent care and to serve as indicators of achievement. Their purpose is to:

- Insure and promote preservation of the existing tree canopy cover within Los Angeles City parks
- Provide standards of maintenance required for protected trees
- Increase survivability of trees during and after construction by providing protection standards and best management practices
- Provide standards for the replacement of trees and the planting of trees as part of the Reforestation Program
- Define criteria for tree risk assessment and economical evaluations
- Establish safety standards for tree care operations
- Provide safety criteria for employees and the public



Moreton Bay chestnut (Castanospermum australe) and 60 foot tall Mahoe (Hibiscus elatus) provide spectacular flower shows each year



Queensland kauri (Agathis robusta) - another exceptional tree in Los Angeles City Parks