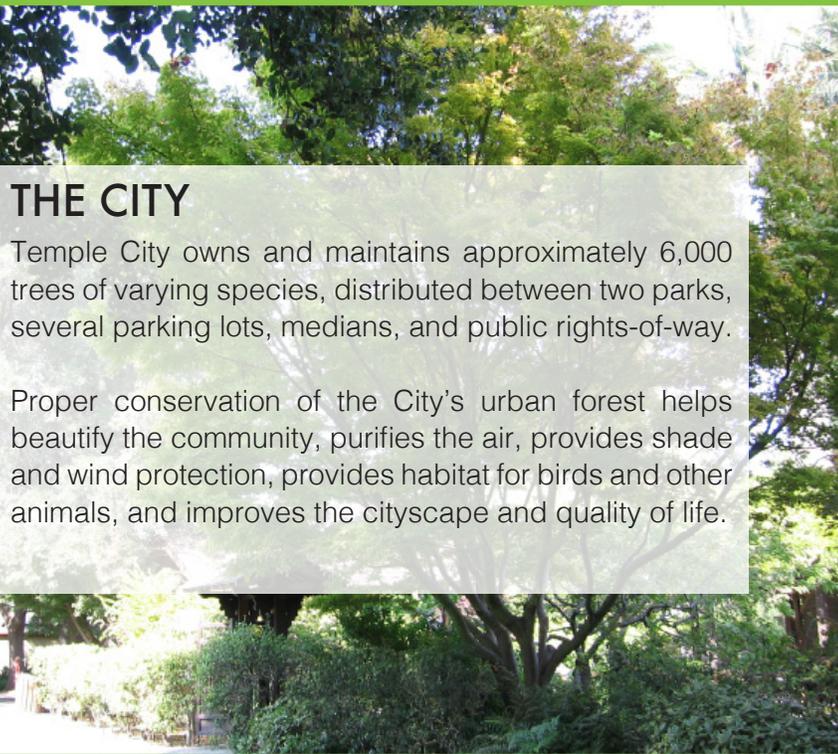


# A GREENER TEMPLE CITY

CHERISHING THE URBAN FOREST FOR A HAPPIER COMMUNITY



## THE CITY

Temple City owns and maintains approximately 6,000 trees of varying species, distributed between two parks, several parking lots, medians, and public rights-of-way.

Proper conservation of the City's urban forest helps beautify the community, purifies the air, provides shade and wind protection, provides habitat for birds and other animals, and improves the cityscape and quality of life.

## TEMPLE CITY TREES: SOME FACTS

- Estimated value of all City-owned trees in Temple City is approximately \$21 million.
- The City acquired a grant from Los Angeles County to plant 300 new trees to replace those lost from the 2011 windstorms.
- The City's planting list determines which species are suitable for certain neighborhood blocks.
- Street trees and all City-owned trees are maintained by the Trees and Parkways Division of the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Many visitors acknowledge the beauty of the mature trees in the City.
- Temple City has been dubbed a Tree City USA for 11 years and awarded the Tree City USA Growth Award for 2 years by the Arbor Day Foundation.

## SOME TERMS

The **urban forest** is a collection of trees that grow within the city and can refer to the entire ecosystem formed between trees and its surrounding environment.

A **public tree** that is planted by or on behalf of the City in the public right-of-way.

A **private tree** is any tree that isn't located within the public right-of-way.

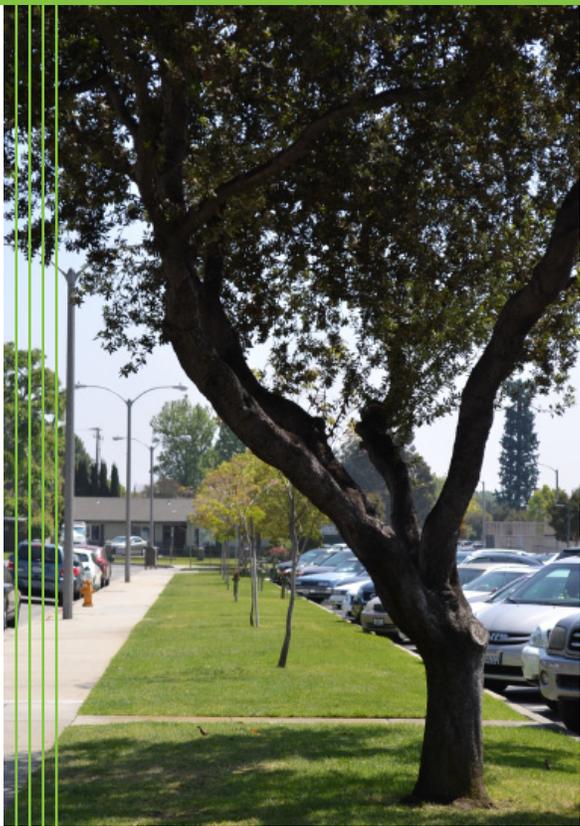
A **parkway** is that portion of a public street that is not improved for sidewalk use and that is available for planting trees.

The **public right-of-way** consists of all public areas and public streets within Temple City.

Tree **maintenance** consists of the entire care of trees including ground prep, fertilizing, cultivating, trimming/pruning, treating for disease/injury, or any other act that promotes the life, growth, and health of any tree.



# WHY ARE TREES IMPORTANT?



Trees provide many benefits to our community. Most trees are planted to provide aesthetic value or shade. However, Temple City's urban forest serves many other purposes that we experience over the course of time.

## SOCIAL BENEFITS

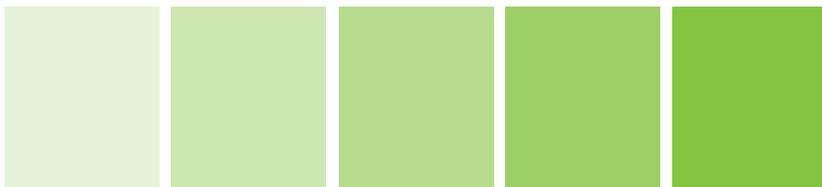
- Nearby trees have a calming effect such as reducing work stress levels and fatigue.
- By creating a more pleasant environment, trees can help attract more businesses, shoppers, and homeowners.
- Tree canopies can form an attractive green wall, creating a sense of safety for pedestrians walking along a tree-lined streets.
- Trees can create a visual barrier for motorists to help distinguish between sidewalk and road, adding to public safety and reducing the public economic burden of accidents.
- Tree canopies create a sound buffer and reduce noise pollution.
- Trees add a natural element and create wildlife habitats to urban settings, all of which help increase quality of life for residents.

## ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Trees improve air quality—leaves absorb greenhouse gas emissions and pollutants like carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)—all while releasing oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>).
- Urban forests help return developed areas to a more natural setting that attract birds and other wildlife, restoring natural harmony to the urban environment.
- Tree canopies can provide shade for pedestrians during the summer, moderating the “heat-island” effect caused by pavement and buildings.
- Leaves can absorb and deflect dangerous sun radiation.
- Trees can affect wind speed and direction, helping protect people, pets, and buildings by acting as a buffer during heavy rains, sleet, and hail.

## ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Property values of landscaped homes are 5–20% higher than those of non-landscaped homes.
- A properly maintained tree can help increase home values since trees increase in value as they grow and mature.
- Direct benefit: trees can affect heating and cooling energy usage.
- Indirect benefit: manage stormwater runoff by intercepting and storing some rainwater; communities benefit overall when utility companies find less need to build nearby facilities (i.e. electricity to meet peak demands; and stormwater control facilities).



# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Now that you know how important trees are to the urban environment and the City of Temple City, there are many ways you can be more involved in helping cherish our urban forest. But first:

*Is the tree in question a public tree or a private tree? Does it fall within the public right-of-way? You can inquire with the Parks and Recreation Department!*

## PUBLIC CITY TREE

**MAINTENANCE.** You are responsible for watering and weeding around trees located in the parkway along and adjacent to your property.

**PRUNING and TRIMMING.** You must obtain a permit from the Parks and Recreation Department prior to trimming any tree growing in the public right-of-way or complete and submit a Tree Service Request to the Parks and Recreation Department.

**PLANTINGS and REMOVALS.** Apply for a permit with the Parks and Recreation Department prior to planting or removing a tree in the public right-of-way. You may also submit Tree Service Request to the Parks and Recreation Department.



## YOUR PRIVATE TREE

**MAINTENANCE.** You are responsible for the proper care and maintenance of any tree located on your property that is not within the public right-of-way. Ensure that your tree will not cause damage within the public right-of-way.

**PRUNING and TRIMMING.** Trim your tree to maintain the proper clearance heights over sidewalks and/or streets. Inquire with the Parks and Recreation Department about the proper techniques for trimming your specific tree.

**PLANTINGS.** Contact the Parks and Recreation Department. Get the best advice for care and planting to make sure you “get the right tree in the right place.”

## TREE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION ORDINANCE

Temple City’s Tree Preservation and Protection Ordinance was adopted for the purpose of establishing policies, regulations, and specifications relating to the planting, care, maintenance and removal of trees in public areas and private trees that impact private areas.

As a property owner, you are responsible for ensuring that the parkways and the trees planted within the parkways adjacent to your property are properly maintained (i.e. irrigation and weed control). However, for your safety, the safety of your neighbors, and the health of any public tree, you are **prohibited** from:

- Planting, removing, trimming, pruning, or cutting any tree growing in the public right-of-way;
- Removing or misusing any device placed to protect any public tree;
- Attaching any rope, wire, nail, tack, staples, or advertising posters to any public tree;
- Piling building material around the tree;
- Constructing any improvements that will impede the planting and/or maintenance of public trees; and
- Damaging, disfiguring, or destroying any public tree.

*(TCMC Section 3-4D-8 A-I, Section 3-4D-12A)*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **How does Temple City conduct regular tree maintenance?**

Regular tree trimming occurs on a 4-year cycle for each tree with work done in between on an “as needed” basis. Maintenance conducted by the City and its contractors may include: *inspections* to identify issues with trees; *pruning* to remove dead/diseased branches, improve structure, and maintain safety; and *removal* only when necessary and as a last resort.

### **Can trees be hazardous?**

Trees can be hazardous if they fall and injure people or damage property. Proper care and maintenance are essential to identify potentially dangerous trees and prevent future damage.

### **Who owns the street trees?**

Any tree or trees planted within a public street, public sidewalk, or within any other public right-of-way is the property of the City.

### **What are some stresses to street trees?**

Young street trees may not be watered properly which does affect their growth and maturity. General stresses that street trees experience include: being hit by car doors, getting branches torn off (forming wounds where harmful insects and diseases can enter), and being exposed to road salt, dog feces, and pollution.

### **Can I plant my own tree?**

On private property, yes. But in order to plant any tree in the public right-of-way, a property owner or tenant must complete and submit an application for a permit. It is advised to contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (626) 285-2171 ext. 2360 or 2361 to learn more about getting “the right tree in the right place.”

### **Can I remove or alter a tree?**

Before trimming, spraying, preserving, or removing a tree, you must first complete and submit an application for a permit. Applications are available from the Parks and Recreation Department.

### **What do I do if I have bees in my tree?**

The best course of action is to do nothing. In a day or so, the bees will likely leave again. Tree limbs are not good nest sites; bees are merely there while worker bees look for a more appropriate site.

### **What do I do if I need maintenance on a city tree or any other service?**

For any tree maintenance, please contact the Temple City Parks and Recreation Department at (626) 285-2171, ext. 2361. Or you may complete a Tree Service Request Form online at <http://www.templecity.us>.

## CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

### **City Hall**

9701 Las Tunas Drive  
Temple City, CA 91780  
(626) 285 - 2171

### **Temple City Municipal Code**

Copies are available at City Hall, but a digital copy is available for your convenience at: [http://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book\\_id=889](http://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book_id=889)

### **Parks and Recreation Department (Annex)**

10144 Bogue Street  
Temple City, CA 91780  
(626) 285 - 2171,  
ext. 2360 or 2361

### **Useful Websites**

**City of Temple City:** <http://www.templecity.us>

**Trees Are Good:** <http://www.treesaregood.org>

**International Society of Arboriculture:** <http://www.isa-arbor.com>

**Project Learning Tree:** <http://www.plt.org>

