



City of Los Banos

At the Crossroads of California

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AGENDA

TREE COMMISSION MEETING

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
520 J Street
Los Banos, California

AUGUST 10, 2016

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Si requiere asistencia especial para atender o participar en esta junta por favor llame a la oficina de la Secretaria de la ciudad al (209) 827-7000 a lo menos de 48 horas previas de la junta.

La Ciudad de Los Banos cumple con la Acta de Americanos con Deshabilidad (ADA) de 1990.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Tree Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the meeting and in the City Clerk's office located at City Hall, 520 J Street, Los Banos, California during normal business hours. In addition, such writings and documents may be posted on the City's website at www.losbanos.org.

Cualquier escritura o los documentos proporcionaron a una mayoría de la Tree Commission con respecto a cualquier artículo en este orden del día será hecho disponible para la inspección pública en la reunión y en la oficina del City Clerk del City Hall, 520 J Street, Los Banos, California durante horas de oficina normales. Además, tales escrituras y los documentos pueden ser anunciados en el website de la Ciudad en www.losbanos.org.

1. CALL TO ORDER. **5:00 PM**
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
3. ROLL CALL:
Coakley ____, Kaljian ____, Menefee ____, Spevak ____
4. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Recommendation: Approve the agenda as submitted.

5. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ACTION MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 11, 2016.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes as submitted.

6. PUBLIC FORUM. (Members of the public may address the Tree Commission on any item of public interest that is within the jurisdiction of the Tree Commission; includes agenda and non-agenda items. No action will be taken on non-agenda items. Speakers are limited to a five (5) minute presentation. Detailed guidelines are posted on the Council Chamber informational table).

7. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF COUNTY PARK TREE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM.

Recommendation: Informational item only, no action to be taken.

8. REVIEW DOWNTOWN RAYWOOD ASH TREES.

Recommendation: Informational item only, no action to be taken.

9. PARKS & RECREATION OPERATIONS MANAGERS REPORT.

10. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER REPORT.

11. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

A. Tom Kaljian

B. Colleen Menefee

C. John Spevak

D. Mary Coakley

12. NEXT TREE COMMISSION MEETING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2016 AT 5:00PM.

13. ADJOURNMENT.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing agenda was posted on the City Hall bulletin board not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Patricia Nelson, Secretary

Dated this 3th day of August 2016

**CITY OF LOS BANOS
TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MAY 11, 2016**

**ACTION MINUTES – These minutes are prepared to depict
action taken for agenda items presented to the
Tree Commission.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Coakley called the Tree Commission Meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Kaljian led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL – MEMBERS OF THE TREE COMMISSION PRESENT: Coakley, Kaljian, Menefee, Spevak; Tietjen absent.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin, Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Cardoza, Public Works Administrative Clerk II Nelson

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Menefee, seconded by Kaljian to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Tietjen absent.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ACTION MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10, 2016: Motion by Menefee, seconded by Spevak to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Tietjen absent.

PUBLIC FORUM: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON ANY ITEM OF PUBLIC INTEREST THAT IS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY; INCLUDES AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS. NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS. DETAILED GUIDELINES ARE POSTED ON THE COUNCIL CHAMBER INFORMATIONAL TABLE. No one came forward to speak and the public forum was closed.

28th ANNUAL ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION AND 26TH TREE CITY USA PROGRAM REPORT: Commissioner Coakley was disappointed that she was unable to attend this year's Arbor Day. Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Cardoza wanted to thank the commissioners who were able to attend; even though half way thru the program a tremendous downpour of rain started, we were able to relocate the celebration inside the Community Center. Cardoza estimated there were about 150 – 200 people that attended and felt everything turned out to be really nice. Cardoza explained that due to the rain, the actual planting of trees happened the next day. Spevak mentioned how nice it was when we honored Ms. Peggy Degregori and Ms. Irene Miano who were genuinely pleased to be honored with resident property tree certificates, which was great to see, as well as watching the kids receive their awards.

PARKS & RECREATION MANAGERS REPORT: Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Cardoza reported the city has returned to watering two days a week in parks and city right of ways. Cardoza explained the plans for trimming the trees with brittle or dead branches and possibly removing trees, if needed, for safety reasons at the Pacheco Park. The trees will be replaced sometime this Fall. Spevak inquired if any trees had been uprooted around town with the winds. Cardoza responded that the winds did cause a lot of broken tree limbs but no trees were uprooted, that he is aware of. Kaljian suggested that sometimes when trees are cut way down, they have re-grown into beautiful trees. There was discussion when Spevak questioned the problems and diseases of the Raywood Ash die back. Cardoza explained that this was the reason why this tree is no longer on the City Tree List. There was some discussion regarding the updated City Tree List amongst the Commissioners and City staff.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER REPORT: Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin explained that when the landscape architects review the landscape ordinance specs and update all requirements, the City Tree List will be included and put on the website. He explained Public Works will start doing one year audits on commercial sites to make sure they keep their landscape in order. It will take some time with limited staff. Wal Mart needs to plant a few missing trees and then they will receive their final. Fachin discussed the conservation effort pertaining to watering days and the mandated percentage usage set for the City of Los Banos. The governor has said that the watering restrictions will continue thru January of 2017 and the conservation measures will be made permanent. Spevak asked, "Can we tell yet if any of the rain has helped with the City's aquifer problem?" Fachin responded, "Our City aquifer has stayed healthy over the past 3 years, plus or minus with three to four feet of dropping, and it's coming back. But, historically, this aquifer doesn't seem to have a quantity issue; it has more of a quality issue. The well depths are doing just fine."

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

COAKLEY: Coakley wanted to ask John and Paul if they had received any responses from the newspaper article that John had written regarding the need to recruit some younger adults to get involved in our trees. They both responded no they hadn't.

KALJIAN: Kaljian has no comments.

MENEFEE: Menefee has no comments.

SPEVAK: Spevak wanted to compliment the Arbor Day crew and everyone who was involved that day. Being inside the building made it special for everyone, seeing all the kids and family members really enjoying themselves was nice.

TIETJEN: Absent.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at the hour of 5:36 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mary Coakley, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Patricia Nelson, Secretary



City of
Los Banos
At the Crossroads of California

Agenda Staff Report

TO: Los Banos Tree Commission
FROM: Mark Fachin, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer
DATE: August 10, 2016
SUBJECT: County Park Tree Replacement Program
TYPE OF REPORT: Informational Item

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Fachin", is written over the "FROM:" line of the report header.

Recommendation:

Informational item only, no action to be taken.

Discussion:

The City will be starting a two to five year tree replacement program for County Park (also known as Pacheco Park) located at Pacheco Blvd. and Seventh Street. Upon inspection of the trees in the park it has been determined that thirty-eight Modesto Ash trees and one Sycamore tree will be removed along the parking areas and from the interior of the park. These trees have begun to show signs of decay due to coming to the end of their natural life cycle. The City will also be pruning an additional fifteen trees throughout the interior of the park to remove dead limbs and shape the trees to provide a healthier canopy. The City recommends using Chinese Pistachios, Magnolia, or Zelkova trees along the parking areas of Pacheco Blvd. and Seventh Street as replacements due to the overhead power lines. Regarding the interior of the park, the City recommends Coastal Live Oaks, Chinese Tallow, Valley Oak, Bloodgood London Plane, and Oklahoma Redbud trees for their replacements.

Attachments:

Description and Picture Tree Information

CALIFORNIA WHITE OAK (VALLEY OAK)

Quercus lobata Nee

Description

General: Oak Family (Fagaceae). California white oak, sometimes referred to as valley oak, is a deciduous tree, 12 to 30 m tall, with a rounded spreading crown. The mature bark is gray, scaly, and often vertically fissured in a checker-like pattern. Leaves are oblong to obovate, 5 to 10 cm long, with 7 to 11 deep lobes. The upper surface is green and shiny; the lower surface is grayish green. Like all oaks, white oak is monoecious and wind-pollinated. The acorn cups are composed of thick, tubercled scales. The one-seeded nuts are 3 to 5 cm long, oblong to ovoid, and mature in one year. Flowering takes place from March to April. Fruits mature between August and October. Good acorn production has been reported to occur annually, but high acorn numbers occur episodically. Trees of this species may be among the largest oaks in North America.

Establishment

Adaptation: It grows in deep, fertile soils of flats and bottomlands below 1200 m. The climate is typically dry and hot, especially during the summer, with an average rainfall of 15 to 40 inches. Like most oaks, California white oak has an obligate relationship with mycorrhizal fungi, which provide critical moisture and nutrients. Some common associates in riparian habitats include coast live oak, sycamore, and cottonwoods, but sedges, grasses, and other herbaceous species are the dominant understory elsewhere.

Uses

General: White oak is a dominant species of valley oak savanna and low elevation riparian forests in California, providing a critical habitat for many animal and plant species, stabilizing soils in flood plains, and contributing an aesthetic value to the natural landscape.

Wildlife: California white oak acorns are an important food source for deer, California ground squirrels, band-tailed pigeons, and acorn woodpeckers.

Ethnobotanic: Native Americans used acorns as a food staple.

Economic: White oak was a source of timber by early settlers. However, because older trees are especially susceptible to fungal decay, their wood was not widely preferred.



COAST LIVE OAK

Quercus agrifolia Nee

Description

General: Oak Family (Fagaceae). Coast live oak, an evergreen tree 20 to 40 feet tall, has a broad, dense crown and widely spreading branches. The lower limbs of ungrazed trees often recline on the ground. Mature bark is gray and shallowly furrowed. Leaves are oblong to oval, 1 to 3 inches in length, cupped, with entire to toothed margins. The upper surface is strongly convex, deep green and smooth, but the lower surface is paler, with hairy-tufted vein axils. Like all oaks, coast live oak is monoecious and wind-pollinated. Acorn cups are composed of thin, flat scales. The one-seeded nuts are 3/4 to 2 and 3/4 inches long, narrowly conical, and mature in one year. On average, trees have high acorn production once every 2 to 3 years. Flowering takes place from February to April. Fruits mature between August and October.

Establishment

Adaptation: It grows in well-drained soils on bluffs, gentle slopes, and canyons, and can be found up to 1400 m in elevation. This species is adapted to relatively warm, wet winters and dry summers moderated by fog and cool temperatures, but does not occur where the ground freezes. Although tolerant of various soil types, live oak prefers a deep loam. Common associates include species of sumac, lemonade berry, and toyon. Coast live oak is particularly well adapted to fire. Branches may produce new shoots after having been lightly burned. Trunks exposed to moderate fires often resprout from the base. Like most oaks, it has an obligate relationship with mycorrhizal fungi, which provide critical moisture and nutrients.

Use

Erosion: Coast live oaks stabilize soil on slopes, provide an organic-rich litter, and contribute to a habitat for a diversity of insects, birds, and mammals.

Wildlife: Acorns are an important food source for birds, small mammals, and deer. Deer may browse the young foliage.

Ethnobotanic: Native Americans used acorns as an important food staple and early European colonists found that its wood made a superior charcoal for use in a variety of industries, including baking and preparing mortar.

Landscape and beautification: Coast live oak is an important element in both natural and man-made landscapes, providing shade and an aesthetic quality.



London Planetree *Platanus x acerifolia*

The London planetree is a widely planted street tree, and for good reason. Its attributes were discovered in London where the new hybrid first appeared around 1645. The tree was found to thrive in the sooty air and provide wonderful shade. Its ability to withstand air pollution, drought and other adversities assures its popularity as an urban tree. Strong limbs also help make the London planetree a good choice where site conditions allow for its large size.

Beyond its reputation as a survivor, this tree is simply worth admiring. The unique bark and interesting branching give it amazing visual appeal—whether summer or winter.

Hardiness Zones

The London planetree can be expected to grow in Hardiness Zones 5–9.

Tree Type

This is a shade tree, featuring a spreading canopy capable of blocking sunlight.

Mature Size

The London planetree grows to a height of 75–100' and a spread of around 80' at maturity.

Growth Rate

This tree grows at a medium rate, with height increases of 13–24" per year.

Sun Preference

Full sun and partial shade are best for this tree, meaning it prefers a minimum of four hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.

Soil Preference

The London planetree grows in acidic, alkaline, loamy, moist, sandy, well-drained, wet and clay soils. It has some drought tolerance.

Attributes

This tree:

- Tolerates pollution and other urban conditions well.
- Transplants easily.
- Is resistant to anthracnose.
- Develops a mottled bark with red-brown scales that flake to reveal green, white and creamy yellow.
- Features large leaves up to 7" long and 10" wide that are sparingly toothed along the edges. They somewhat resemble the leaves of black, sugar and red maples.
- Produces inconspicuous red flowers in April as the leaves unfurl.
- Yields pendulous ball-like clusters of tightly packed seed approximately 1" in diameter.
- Lives longer than many other shade trees in urban settings.
- Grows in a pyramidal shape that shifts to a more oval silhouette over time.
- Is not suitable for small areas.



Oklahoma Redbud Tree

The Oklahoma Redbud is one of the first trees to flower in the early spring, blooming petite purple-red flowers in large clusters.

This blizzard of bright blooms appears in late winter or early spring. Soon after, dark green, glossy leaves begin to form a beautiful backdrop.

Ideal for tight places or small lots, but will brighten up even the largest yards. Matures to a perfect 20-30 ft. tall, forming a dense, round shape. No other tree can offer this many blooms.

Grows in a variety of soils and climates.

Oklahoma Redbuds are **often used to accent gardens because they are very compact.** However, they make great ornamental trees as well, being able to command attention with their showy purple-red flowers.

These are strong trees with deep root systems. **Very resistant to storm, ice and wind damage.**

Prefers Growing Zones 6-9.

Mature Height:	20-30 ft.
Mature Width:	15-20 ft.
Sunlight:	Full to Partial
Drought Tolerance:	Good
Botanical Name:	<i>Cercis reniformis</i> 'Oklahoma'





Zelkova serrata

Culture

Easily grown in average, medium wet, well-drained soils in full sun. Established trees tolerate some drought. Prefers rich, moist loams. Generally tolerant of urban conditions.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Zelkova serrata, commonly called Japanese zelkova, is a medium to large deciduous tree, typically growing to 50-80' tall with a spreading, generally upward-branching, vase-shaped crown. It is native to Japan, Taiwan and eastern China. It is noted for its graceful shape, clean foliage, attractive bark and resistance to Dutch elm disease. Zelkova has in fact been promoted in recent years as a substitute for American elm (*Ulmus americana*) because of its resistance to Dutch elm disease. Insignificant small green flowers appear in spring as the foliage emerges. Flowers give way to small, non-showy, ovate, wingless drupes that ripen in autumn. Oblong-elliptic medium green leaves (to 3" long) with coarse, ciliate marginal teeth and acuminate tips. Fall color is variable, ranging from undistinguished yellow to attractive shades of yellow-orange to red-brown. Smooth gray bark in youth exfoliates with age to reveal orange-brown inner bark. Zelkova is valued as a commercial timber tree in Japan.

Specific epithet and additional common name of sawleaf zelkova both refer to the serrated leaf margins.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Highly resistant to Dutch elm disease. Phloem necrosis, wilts and cankers may occur. Insect visitors include leaf miner, beetles and scale. Spider mites can be a problem in hot, dry summers.

Garden Uses

May be used as a lawn, shade or street tree.

Common Name: Japanese zelkova

Type: Tree

Family: Ulmaceae

Native Range: China, Japan, Korea, Russia, Taiwan

Zone: 5 to 8

Height: 50 to 80 feet

Spread: 50 to 80 feet

Bloom Time: March to April

Bloom Description: Green

Sun: Full sun

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Shade Tree, Street Tree
Flower: Insignificant
Leaf: Good Fall
Tolerate: Air Pollution



Chinese Tallow Tree

Common Name: Chinese Tallow Tree, Popcorn Tree

Scientific Name: *Sapium sebiferum*

Identification: Chinese Tallow Tree is a deciduous tree that may reach 60 feet in height and 3 feet in diameter. The tree has alternately whorled, heart-shaped leaves with a pointed tip. The bark is light gray and fissured. Slender, drooping spikes up to 8 inches long appear from April to June. No petals are present but the sepals are yellowish-green. Three lobed capsules appear from August to January and release 3 white, wax-coated seeds resembling popcorn. A single, mature tree produces up to 100,000 seeds.

Appearance

Triadica sebifera is a deciduous tree reaching 60 ft. (18.3 m) in height and 3 ft. (0.9 m) in diameter.

Foliage

Leaves are alternate, heart-shaped, 2-3 in. (5.1-7.6 cm) long with a long, pointed tip.

Flowers

Flowering occurs from April to June. The flowers are yellowish and occur on 8 in. (20 cm) long, dangling spikes.

Fruit

Three-lobed, greenish fruit are found in clusters at the end of branches. Fruit mature to black and then open to reveal the white wax covered seeds.

Ecological Threat

Triadica sebifera invades wet areas such as stream banks and ditches but can also invade drier upland sites. *Triadica sebifera* is a serious threat because of its ability to invade high quality, undisturbed forests. It can displace native vegetation as well as alter soil conditions due to the high amount of tannins present in the leaf litter. *Triadica sebifera* is a native of China and was introduced into South Carolina in 1776 for ornamental purposes and seed oil production.



Chinese Pistache *Pistacia chinensis*

Known as the “Ugly Duckling” of the tree world, the Chinese pistache starts out as an unattractive and misshapen young tree but grows into a magnificent specimen. It is a tough tree that can withstand urban conditions and is commonly used in Xeriscape (dry landscaping).

This tree is popular in California and is often put to use as the understock for commercial pistachio growers.

Hardiness Zones

The chinese pistache can be expected to grow in Hardiness Zones 6–9.



Tree Type

This tree is considered both a shade tree and an ornamental tree. It features a spreading canopy capable of blocking sunlight and adds visual interest and beauty to landscaping.

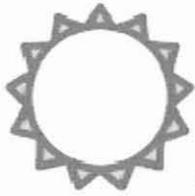
Mature Size

The Chinese pistache grows to a height of 25–35' and a spread of 25–35' at maturity.



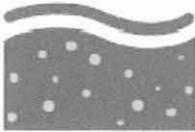
Growth Rate

This tree grows at a medium rate, with height increases of 13–24" per year.



Sun Preference

Full sun is the ideal condition for this tree, meaning it should get at least 6 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.



Soil Preference

The Chinese pistache grows in acidic, alkaline, loamy, moist, sandy, silty loam, well-drained and clay soils. It also grows well in drought conditions.



Attributes

This tree:

- Provides good fall color, with leaves turning beautiful shades of orange and red.
- Features lustrous dark green leaves that are around 10" long and compound, commonly with 10–12 (sometimes as many as 20) leaflets.
- Produces panicles of greenish flowers in April and May, but they are not showy.
- Yields small, round ($\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter) orange to red drupes that ripen in October.
- Withstands heat quite well.
- Grows in an oval, rounded, spreading shape.
- Tolerates urban conditions fairly well.



Crapemyrtle (Crape Myrtle) *Lagerstroemia indica*

The crapemyrtle is often referred to as the "lilac of the South." With its striking flowers, handsome bark and attractive foliage, this species is a favorite for landscapes. It can be grown as either a shrub or small tree and is often used in groupings, containers, hedges and screens. You can even find the common crapemyrtle used as small street trees in urban settings.

Hardiness Zones

The crapemyrtle (crape myrtle) can be expected to grow in Hardiness Zones 7–10.



Tree Type

This is a flowering shrub, typically planted for its profusion of flowers.



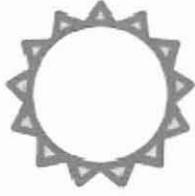
Mature Size

The common crapemyrtle grows to a height of 15–25' and a spread of 6–15' at maturity.



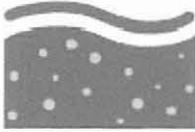
Growth Rate

This shrub grows at a fast rate, with height increases of more than 24" per year.



Sun Preference

Full sun is the ideal condition for this shrub, meaning it should get at least 6 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.



Soil Preference

The common crapemyrtle grows in a wide range of soils from slightly alkaline to acidic. It prefers moist, well-drained sites but has some drought tolerance.



Attributes

This shrub:

- Can be grown as a shrub or small tree.
- Is well-suited for hot, sunny climates.
- Produces wide, showy panicles in various shades of pink, with flowers that have wrinkled petals similar to crepe paper, from late spring into fall.
- Has thin, gray bark that exfoliates, exposing smooth under-bark with varying colors ranging from brown to gray.
- Can have increased flower number and branchiness if you pinch new growth during the growing season.
- Grows in a vase shape.
- Grows well in limited soil space.
- Features foliage that is dark green, changing to shades of yellow, orange and red in the fall.



Southern Magnolia *Magnolia grandiflora*

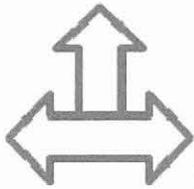
Southern magnolia is a magnificent tree with a name that is somewhat misleading. Although it is most prevalent in the South—and the state tree of Mississippi—its zone 6 planting range means it can grow in many northern areas, even as far north as parts of Maine, Michigan and Washington.

Hardiness Zones

The southern magnolia can be expected to grow in Hardiness Zones 6–10.

Tree Type

This tree is considered both a flowering tree and an ornamental tree. It is typically planted for both its visual interest and profusion of spring flowers.



Mature Size

The southern magnolia grows to a height of 60–80' and a spread of around 40' at maturity.



Growth Rate

This tree grows at a slow to medium rate, with height increases of anywhere from less than 12" to 24" per year.

Sun Preference

Full sun and partial shade are best for this tree, meaning it prefers a minimum of 4 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.

Soil Preference

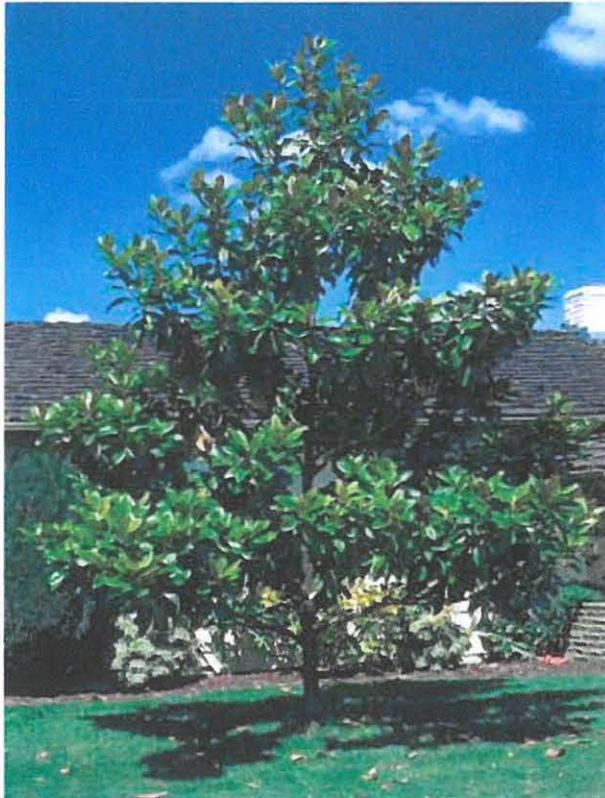
The southern magnolia grows in acidic, loamy, moist, sandy, well-drained and clay soils. It can withstand some flooding and has moderate drought tolerance.



Attributes

This tree:

- Produces creamy white flowers, sometimes up to 12" in diameter, with a rich fragrance.
- Blooms May through June, with some blossoms throughout the summer months.
- Is an evergreen, keeping most (but not all) of its leaves year-round.
- Features leathery leaves 5–10" in length, lustrous dark green on top with a soft, rusty underside.
- Needs protection from winter sun and winds in northern areas.
- Yields fruit that is 3–8" long, attracting birds.
- Grows in an oval, pyramidal shape.
- Has a shallow and wide-spreading root system.
- May be better placed in landscaping rather than along a street due to the leathery leaves and large seed pods that are shed in the fall.





City of
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Agenda Staff Report

TO: Los Banos Tree Commission
FROM: Mark Fachin, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer
DATE: August 10, 2016
SUBJECT: Downtown Raywood Ash Trees
TYPE OF REPORT: Informational Item

Recommendation:

Information item only, no action to be taken.

Discussion:

The condition of the Raywood Ash trees located in the downtown was evaluated by a certified Arborist. The report, dated June 30, 2016, is attached to this staff report.

Of the 87 Raywood Ash trees identified in the downtown area, nine were required to be removed due to 'die back disease.' Since this report, an additional three trees have been added to the list for removal. These tree locations are included on the attachment to this staff report.

The Chinese Pistache is the most highly recommended tree that the certified arborist and staff believe would best suit the needs of downtown. The three criteria that are met by this tree are:

1. Does not do concrete damage
2. Low maintenance requirement
3. Shade canopy while keeping store fronts visible

On an individual basis, staff will consider replacing the diseased Raywood Ash trees with the Species Ginkgo Biloba.

As more of the downtown Raywood Ash trees become diseased, staff will remove and replace them per the Arborist's recommendations.

Attachment:

Arborist Report
List of 9 trees to be removed
Tree information on Chinese Pistache and Ginkgo Biloba



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June 30, 2016

Paul Cardoza
Parks and Recreation Operation Manager
City of Los Banos
645 7th Street
Los Banos, CA 93635

Subject: Downtown Los Banos Raywood Ash trees

Dear Mr. Cardoza:

I evaluated the health of the Raywood Ash trees (*Fraxinus Raywood*) located throughout downtown Los Banos on June 24, 2016. This letter summarizes my observations and recommendations.

Description of the Trees

The Raywood Ash trees (*Fraxinus 'Raywood'*) are located in the side walk areas on 6th Street starting at H Street to Pacheco Ave., I Street between 5th - 7th Street, J Street between 5th - 7th Street, K Street between 5th - 7th Street, and M Street between 6th street - 7th Street. The trees are located in standard City tree wells with bark and small shrubs planted around some of the trees. Cement curbing and asphalt is the primary hardscape around these trees.

Observations of the Trees

Currently there are approximately 87 Raywood Ash trees located in the downtown area. A majority of the trees are in good condition and showing signs of dark green foliage, full and vigorous canopies, and limited lifting of hardscape areas.

In addition, there are several Raywood Ash trees in average condition and showing signs of a fungal disease called botryosphaeria. The sign of this disease is the dieback (dead branches) throughout the canopy and large scaffold branches, see photo to the right marked by yellow arrows.



Finally, there are several Raywood Ash trees, which are in poor condition and showing signs of sunscald on the trunks of the trees, see photo below. Sunscald is a form of injury to the trunk of many landscape trees. Often called southwest injury, it usually occurs on the southwest side of trees. The extreme radiant heat and sunshine on the tree trunks desiccates the active cells under the bark layer. This injury may appear as sunken and discolored bark resulting in the bark cracking and falling off in areas along the trunk. Dead tissue is revealed under the cracked bark. The injury is most severe on thin-barked deciduous trees, such as honey locusts, fruit trees, ashes, and maples. Sunscald occurs on warm winter days and throughout the summer. In addition, these trees are also showing signs of the fungal disease botryosphaeria.

Example of Raywood Ash in poor condition with sunscald on trunk.



Summary and Recommendations

The Raywood Ash trees throughout the Valley have become a problematic tree. However, the City of Los Banos has been proactive and Tree DoctoRx has been treating these trees for the fungal disease botryosphaeria. I believe the treatment has helped keep many of the large trees in good condition and are a viable tree for the downtown area. However, there are several Raywood Ash trees, which are in poor condition and should be removed.

Below are my recommendations and approximate tree counts for the good, average, and poor condition 87 Raywood Ash trees located in the downtown area.

- **58 Good Condition Raywood Ash Trees** – I recommend these trees continue to be treated with Phosphite and organic fertilizers to help optimize the health of the trees and control the botryosphaeria disease.
- **20 Average Condition Raywood Ash Trees** – I recommend pruning out the dead/diseased wood from the tree canopy and reducing the height and/or spread of the trees as necessary. The pruning should help stimulate new growth on the healthy branches. In addition, the trees should continue to be treated with Phosphite and organic fertilizers to help optimize the health of the trees and control the botryosphaeria disease.
- **9 Poor Condition Raywood Ash Trees** – I recommend removing and replacing these trees. The trees, which are in poor condition have severe sunscald on their trunks (see picture on page 3) and/or have a crown with more than 50% dead branches. The trees should be replaced with an appropriate street tree, such as the Chinese Pistache, *Pistacia chinensis*.

Please call if you have any questions regarding this letter. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Sincerely,



David M. Kuhtz, RCA #545
V.P./General Manager
ISA Certified Arborist #WE-8047A
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Arborists are tree specialists who use their education, knowledge, training and experience to examine trees, recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees, and attempt to reduce the risk of living near trees. Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of the arborist, or to seek additional advice.

Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that fail in ways we do not fully understand. Conditions are often hidden within trees and below ground. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specified period of time. Likewise, remedial treatments, like any medicine, cannot be guaranteed.

Treatment, pruning and removal of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of the arborist's services such as property boundaries, property ownership, site lines, disputes between neighbors, and other issues. Arborists cannot take such considerations into account unless complete and accurate information is disclosed to the arborist. An arborist should then be expected to reasonably rely upon the completeness and accuracy of the information provided.

Trees can be managed, but they cannot be controlled. To live near trees is to accept some degree of risk. The only way to eliminate all risk associated with trees is to eliminate all trees.

List for Downtown Tree Removal

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Details</u>
2	K Street	Next to David Gould Insurance
1	6th Street	in front of David Gould Insurance
1	6th Street	Advanced Eye Care
1	6th Street	Bakery Panaderia
1	J Street	Positive Changes
1	6th Street	Total Nutrition
1	6th Street	Bank of America
1	6th Street	J & N Restaurant
Total	<u>9</u>	

Prune 3 to 4 others along 6th Street (Recommend removal)

Recommend 3 removals along H Street by Bank of America (Additional)

Pistacia chinensis: Chinese Pistache¹

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson²

Introduction

Finely divided, lustrous, dark green foliage, bright red fruit (on female trees) ripening to dark blue, peeling, attractive bark, and wonderful fall colors combine to make Chinese Pistache an outstanding specimen, shade, or street tree. Capable of reaching 60 feet in height with a 25 to 35-foot spread, Chinese Pistache is usually seen at 25 to 35 feet in height with an oval, rounded canopy and light, open branching creating light shade. Branches form a vase-shape which is particularly evident during the winter. Lower branches often droop to the ground with time, forming a wonderfully spreading crown. Older, more mature trees become more dense and uniformly-shaped. Young trees are asymmetrical and a bit awkward-looking unless properly pruned in the nursery. For this reason, it has not been widely planted but should be due its adaptability to urban soils.



Figure 1. Middle-aged *Pistacia chinensis*: Chinese Pistache

Credit: Ed Gilman

[Click thumbnail to enlarge.]

General Information

Scientific name: *Pistacia chinensis*

Pronunciation: piss-TAY-shee-uh chih-NEN-sis

Common name(s): Chinese Pistache

Family: *Anacardiaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 6B through 9B (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Invasive potential: little invasive potential

Uses: reclamation; deck or patio; shade; specimen; street without sidewalk; parking lot island < 100 sq ft; parking lot island 100-200 sq ft; parking lot island > 200 sq ft; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); tree lawn 4-6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; urban tolerant; highway median

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

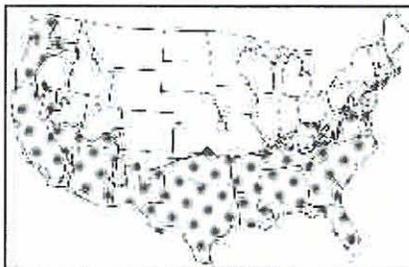


Figure 2. Range

[Click thumbnail to enlarge.]

Description

Height: 25 to 35 feet

Spread: 25 to 35 feet

Crown uniformity: symmetrical

Crown shape: oval, round, vase, spreading

Crown density: moderate

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: even-pinnately compound

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: lanceolate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: red, orange

Fall characteristic: showy





Figure 3. Foliage

[Click thumbnail to enlarge.]

Flower

Flower color: red

Flower characteristics: showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval, round

Fruit length: less than .5 inch

Fruit covering: fleshy

Fruit color: red, green, blue

Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; showy; fruit/leaves a litter problem

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: branches droop; showy; typically one trunk; thorns

Pruning requirement: needed for strong structure

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: brown

Current year twig thickness: thick

Wood specific gravity: unknown

Culture

Light requirement: full sun, partial sun or partial shade

Soil tolerances: clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; well-drained

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerance: none

Other

Roots: not a problem

Winter interest: yes

Outstanding tree: yes

Ozone sensitivity: unknown

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: susceptible

Pest resistance: free of serious pests and diseases

Use and Management

The wood is extremely durable and the outer, grey-brown, fissured bark flakes off to reveal the attractive, salmon red or orange inner bark. The colorful red-orange to pink fruits appear in large panicles and are quite showy in late summer and autumn in USDA hardiness zones 8 and 9 but do not cause a significant litter problem. Fall color is reliably bright red or orange in USDA hardiness zone 8 and colder areas and makes one of the most brilliant shows of any tree, but fall color is less reliable in warmer climates. This is one of the last trees to color in the fall, extending the fall color show in many parts of the south into November.

The tree needs special pruning and training in the early years to create branches in desirable places along the trunk. It often grows with few branches, or with branches clustered at one point on the trunk, if it was topped in the nursery. To train an unbranched young sapling, prune the top to force development of several branches. Pick one to be the trunk, another to be a branch and remove the rest. Allow the tree to grow taller and again top the unbranched trunk 18 to 24 inches above the first pruning cut to force branch development there. Build the tree in this fashion until a desirable structure with well spaced branches is achieved.

This is certainly an underutilized urban tree. It has merit for wider use in urban street tree plantings and in other adverse sites due to its drought tolerance, adaptability, moderate size, and wonderful form and fall color. It is hard to go wrong with Chinese Pistache in all areas within its range. Its range is occasionally extended to hardiness zone 6a.

Chinese Pistache grows quickly in full sun to partial shade on moderately fertile, well-drained soils and will withstand heat and drought extremely well. The crown is quite round and symmetrical on older specimens when grown in full sun but becomes misshapen in too much shade - best for full sun areas. Grows in clay, loam, or sand in a wide range of soil pH.

Chinese Pistache is used as the understock on which the commercial pistachio nut (*Pistacia vera*) is grafted. The cultivar 'Keith Davey' has outstanding autumn color.

Propagation is by seed.

Pests

No pests are of major concern. This tree is about as pest-free as any tree.

Diseases

Verticillium wilts and oak root fungus occasionally affect Chinese Pistache.

Footnotes

1. This document is ENH641, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date November 1993. Revised December 2006. Reviewed February 2014. Visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, former associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.

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Pistacia chinensis

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Common Name: pistachio
 Type: Tree
 Family: Anacardiaceae
 Native Range: China to Phillipines
 Zone: 6 to 9
 Height: 30.00 to 35.00 feet
 Spread: 20.00 to 30.00 feet
 Bloom Time: April
 Sun: Full sun
 Water: Dry to medium
 Maintenance: Medium
 Suggested Use: Shade Tree, Street Tree
 Flower: Insignificant
 Leaf: Good Fall
 Fruit: Showy
 Tolerate: Drought, Air Pollution
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Culture

Grow in moist, organically rich, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerates light shade, but best in full sun. Tolerates heat, drought and a wide range of soils. Proper pruning in early years is necessary to create a symmetrical tree with good form. Best planted in protected locations in the St. Louis area which is at the northern growing limit for this tree.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Native to China, Taiwan and the Philippines, pistachio or Chinese pistache is a small deciduous tree that typically grows to 30-35' (less frequently to 60') tall with an oval rounded crown. Foliage consists of compound, even-pinnate, dark green leaves (to 10" long), each leaf typically having 10-12 lanceolate leaflets (to 4" long). Foliage is aromatic when bruised. Fall color is variable but often appears in quality shades of yellow, orange and red. Trees are dioecious (separate male and female trees), with flowers appearing in April in visible but somewhat inconspicuous green panicles. Pollinized flowers on female trees give rise to red-ripening-to-blue spherical fruits (drupes to 1/4" diameter) that ripen in fall. Drupes are inedible (*Pistacia vera* produces the edible pistachio nuts). Gray-brown bark peels to reveal salmon inner bark. Plants have naturalized in small areas of California, Texas, Alabama and Georgia.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Susceptible to verticillium wilt.

Garden Uses

Street tree. Shade tree. Small landscape specimen for patio or garden.



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[Ginkgo biloba 'Autumn Gold': 'Autumn Gold' Maidenhair Tree](#)¹

0

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson²

Introduction

This male cultivar of Ginkgo is practically pest-free, resistant to storm damage, and casts dense shade. It makes a durable street tree where there is enough overhead space to accommodate the large size. The shape is often irregular with a large branch or two seemingly forming its own tree on the trunk. But this does not detract from its usefulness as a city tree unless the tree will be growing in a restricted overhead space. If this is the case, select from the narrow upright cultivars such as 'Princeton Sentry' and 'Fairmont'. Ginkgo tolerates most soil, including compacted, and alkaline. The tree is easily transplanted and has a vivid yellow fall color which is second to none in brilliance, even in the south. However, leaves fall quickly and the fall color show is short. Unlike the species, the tree does not set fruit.



Figure 1. Middle-aged *Ginkgo biloba* 'Autumn Gold': 'Autumn Gold' Maidenhair Tree

Credit: Ed Gilman

[Click thumbnail to enlarge.]

General Information

Scientific name: *Ginkgo biloba*

Pronunciation: GINK-go bye-LOE-buh

Common name(s): 'Autumn Gold' Maidenhair Tree, 'Autumn Gold' Ginkgo

Family: *Ginkgoaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 3A through 8A (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Invasive potential: little invasive potential

Uses: urban tolerant; street without sidewalk; specimen; highway median; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); parking lot island 100-200 sq ft; parking lot island > 200 sq ft; Bonsai; tree lawn 3-4 feet wide; tree lawn 4-6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide

Availability: not native to North America



Figure 2. Range
[Click thumbnail to enlarge.]

Description

Height: 25 to 50 feet

Spread: 25 to 35 feet

Crown uniformity: symmetrical

Crown shape: oval

Crown density: moderate

Growth rate: fast

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: lobed

Leaf shape: fan-shaped

Leaf venation: parallel, palmate

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: yellow

Fall characteristic: showy





Figure 3. Foliage
[Click thumbnail to enlarge.]

Flower

Flower color: green

Flower characteristics: not showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: no fruit

Fruit length: no fruit

Fruit covering: no fruit

Fruit color: no fruit

Fruit characteristics: no fruit

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: branches don't droop; showy; typically one trunk; thorns

Pruning requirement: little required

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: brown, gray

Current year twig thickness: medium, thick

Wood specific gravity: unknown

Culture

Light requirement: full sun, partial sun or partial shade

Soil tolerances: sand; loam; clay; acidic; alkaline; well-drained; occasionally wet

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate

Other

Roots: not a problem

Winter interest: yes

Outstanding tree: yes

Ozone sensitivity: unknown

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: resistant

Pest resistance: free of serious pests and diseases

Use and Management

Ginkgo may grow extremely slow for several years after planting, but will then pick up and grow at a rapid rate, particularly if it receives an adequate supply of water and some fertilizer. But do not overwater or plant in a poorly-drained area. Get grass away from several feet around the trunk to help the tree become established. Very tolerant of urban soils and pollution, Ginkgo could be used more in USDA hardiness zone 7 but is not recommended in central and southern Texas or Oklahoma due to summer heat. Adapted for use as a street tree, even in confined soil spaces. Some early pruning to form one central leader is essential.

There are several other cultivars: 'Fairmont' - male, fruitless, upright, oval to pyramidal form; 'Fastigiata' - male, fruitless, upright growth; 'Laciniata' - leaf margins deeply divided; 'Lakeview' - male, fruitless, compact broad conical form; 'Mayfield' - male, upright fastigate (columnar) growth; 'Pendula' - pendent branches; 'Princeton Sentry' - male, fruitless, fastigate, narrow conical crown for restricted overhead spaces, popular, 65 feet tall, available in some nurseries; 'Santa Cruz' - umbrella-shaped, 'Variegata' - variegated leaves.

Propagation is by budding to seedling understock.

Pests and Diseases

This tree is pest-free and considered resistant to gypsy moth.

Footnotes

1. This document is ENH433, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date November 1993. Revised December 2006. Reviewed February 2014. Visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
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Ginkgo biloba 'Autumn Gold'

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Common Name: maidenhair tree
 Type: Tree
 Family: Ginkgoaceae
 Zone: 3 to 8
 Height: 40.00 to 50.00 feet
 Spread: 25.00 to 30.00 feet
 Bloom Time: April
 Bloom Description: Green (male)
 Sun: Full sun
 Water: Medium
 Maintenance: Low
 Suggested Use: Shade Tree, Street Tree
 Leaf: Good Fall
 Tolerate: Deer, Clay Soil, Air Pollution
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Culture

Easily grown in average, medium moisture soil in full sun. Prefers moist, sandy, well-drained soils. Tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions, including both alkaline and acidic soils and compacted soils. Also tolerant of saline conditions, air pollution and heat. Adapts well to most urban environments.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Ginkgo biloba is a deciduous conifer (a true gymnosperm) that matures to 100' tall. It is the only surviving member of a group of ancient plants believed to have inhabited the earth up to 150 million years ago. It features distinctive two-lobed, somewhat leathery, fan-shaped, rich green leaves with diverging (almost parallel) veins. Leaves turn bright yellow in fall. Ginkgo trees are commonly called maidenhair trees in reference to the resemblance of their fan-shaped leaves to maidenhair fern leaflets (pinnae). Ginkgos are dioecious (separate male and female trees). Nurseries typically sell only male trees (fruitless), because female trees produce seeds encased in fleshy, fruit-like coverings which, at maturity in autumn, are messy and emit a noxious, foul odor upon falling to the ground and splitting open.

'Autumn Gold' is an all-male cultivar typically growing at maturity to 40-50' with a symmetrical, broadly spreading habit. Leaves turn a uniform golden yellow in autumn (spectacular when backlit by early morning or late afternoon sun) and persist for several weeks. When the leaves do drop, they drop rapidly, forming a golden carpet around the tree. Ginkgo is also commonly called maidenhair tree, which refers to the resemblance of the fan-shaped leaves to maidenhair fern leaflets (pinnae).

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Usually slow growing, with initial growth being somewhat sparse.

Garden Uses

Excellent choice for a variety of uses, including lawn tree, street tree or shade tree. Also effective in city parks and near commercial buildings.



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